

US007304236B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Gretz

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,304,236 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 4, 2007**

(54) **ELECTRICAL BOX ASSEMBLY FOR
RECESSED MOUNTING OF HIGH AND LOW
VOLTAGE COMPONENTS**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/729,715**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 29, 2007**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 11/713,381,
filed on Mar. 2, 2007.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H01H 9/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **174/58; 174/50; 174/54;**
174/63; 248/200; 361/600; 220/3.8

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **174/58,**
174/57, 53, 54, 61, 63, 135, 50; 220/3.2,
220/3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 4.02; 248/121, 126,
248/200.906; 361/600; 439/535

See application file for complete search history.

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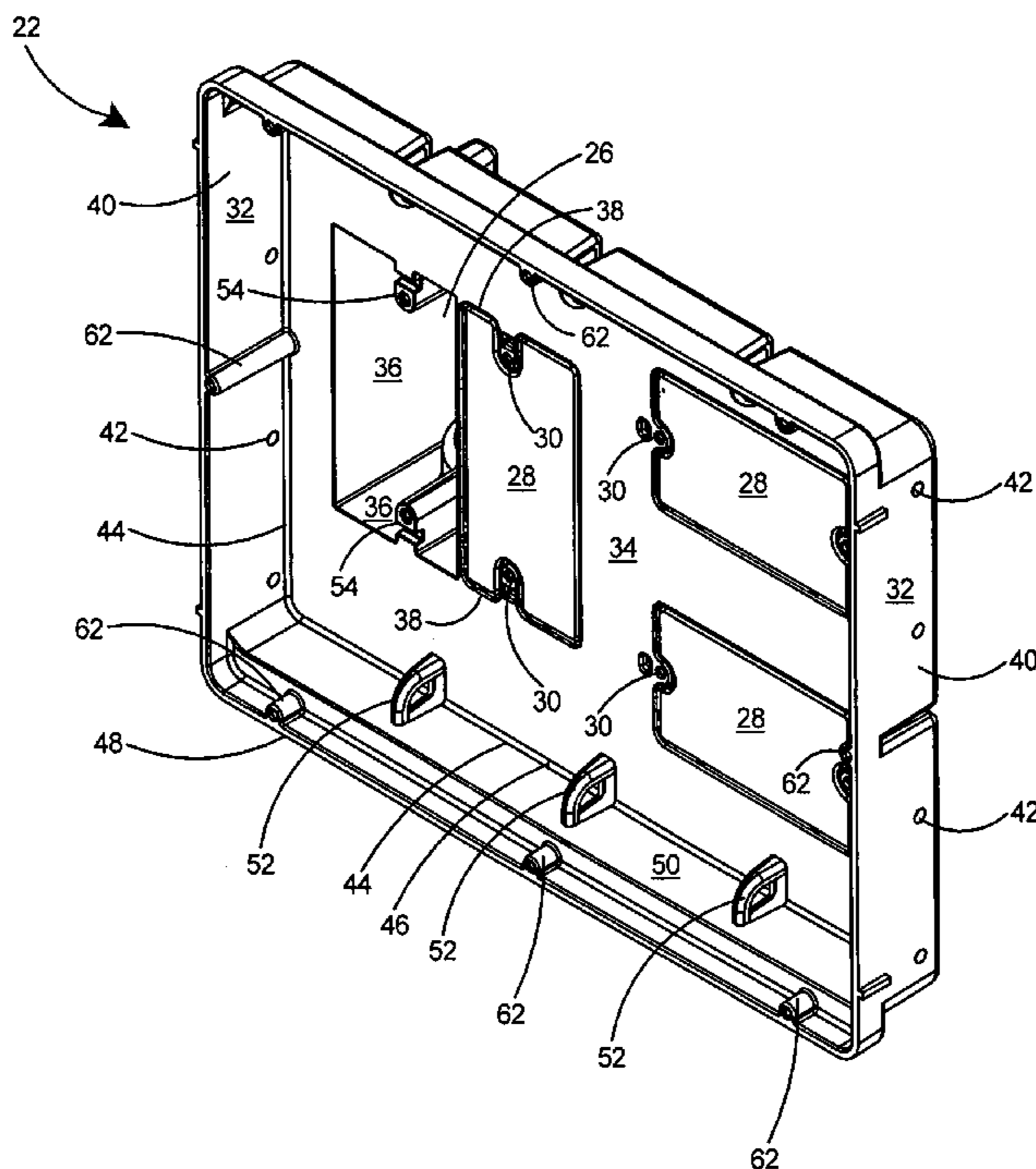
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Primary Examiner—Dhiru R. Patel

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An electrical box assembly for providing electrical service including line voltage and signal line hookups for a television or home entertainment center. The electrical box assembly recesses electrical components including plug ends of electrical cords within the wall to make them unobtrusive and out of the way. The box assembly includes an integral electrical box for housing two line voltage electrical components and connection points for several low voltage components. The low voltage connection points are capable of accepting standard jacks for broadband cable, direct TV, surround sound cabling, or phone systems. The electrical box assembly includes a box member, a frame member, and a flange on the frame member to enable secure mounting to a pair of studs. A separate embodiment includes the box and frame members in one piece. The electrical box assembly enables easy consolidation of electrical and signal hookups for TV or home entertainment systems.

19 Claims, 19 Drawing Sheets



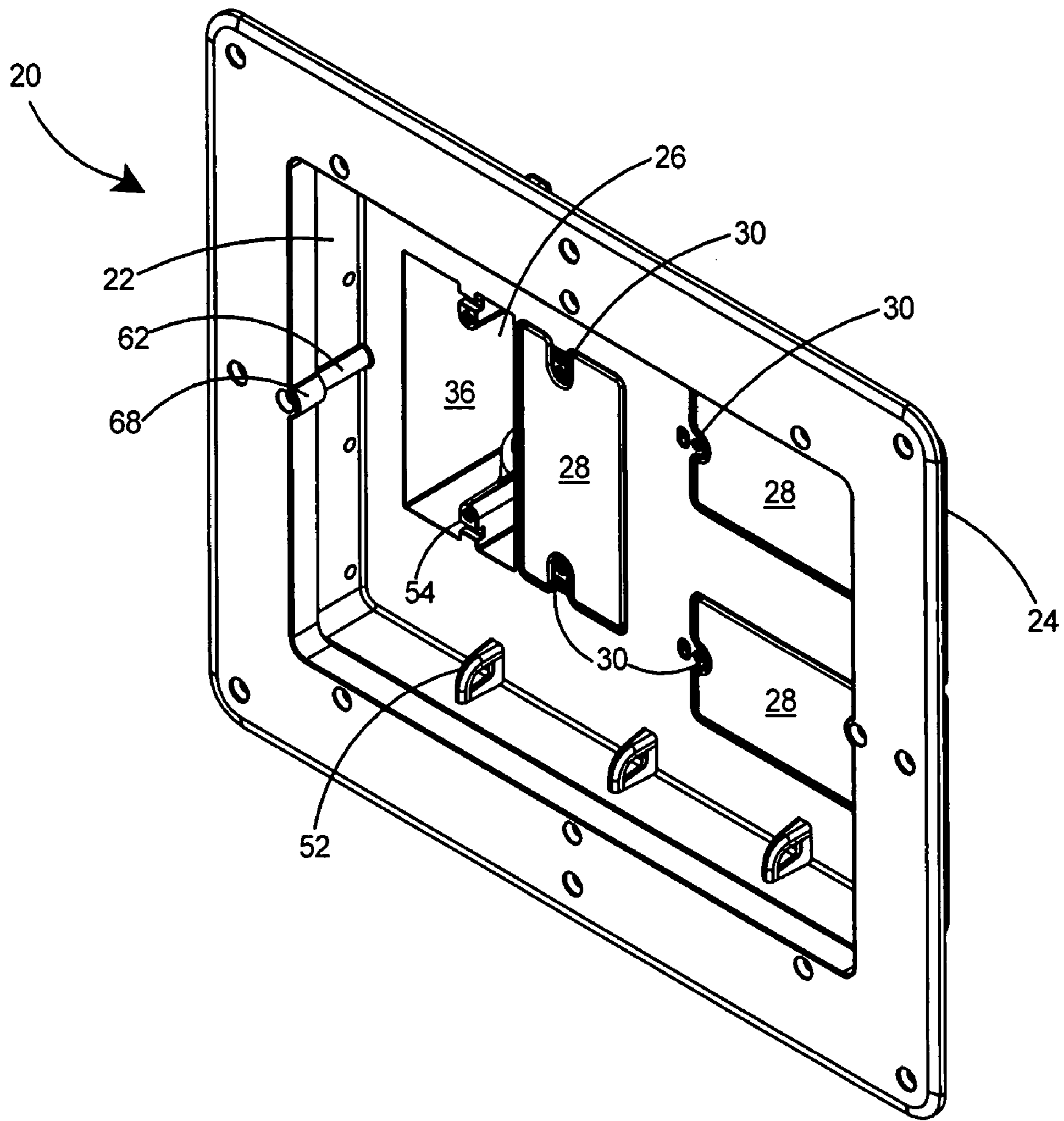


Fig. 1

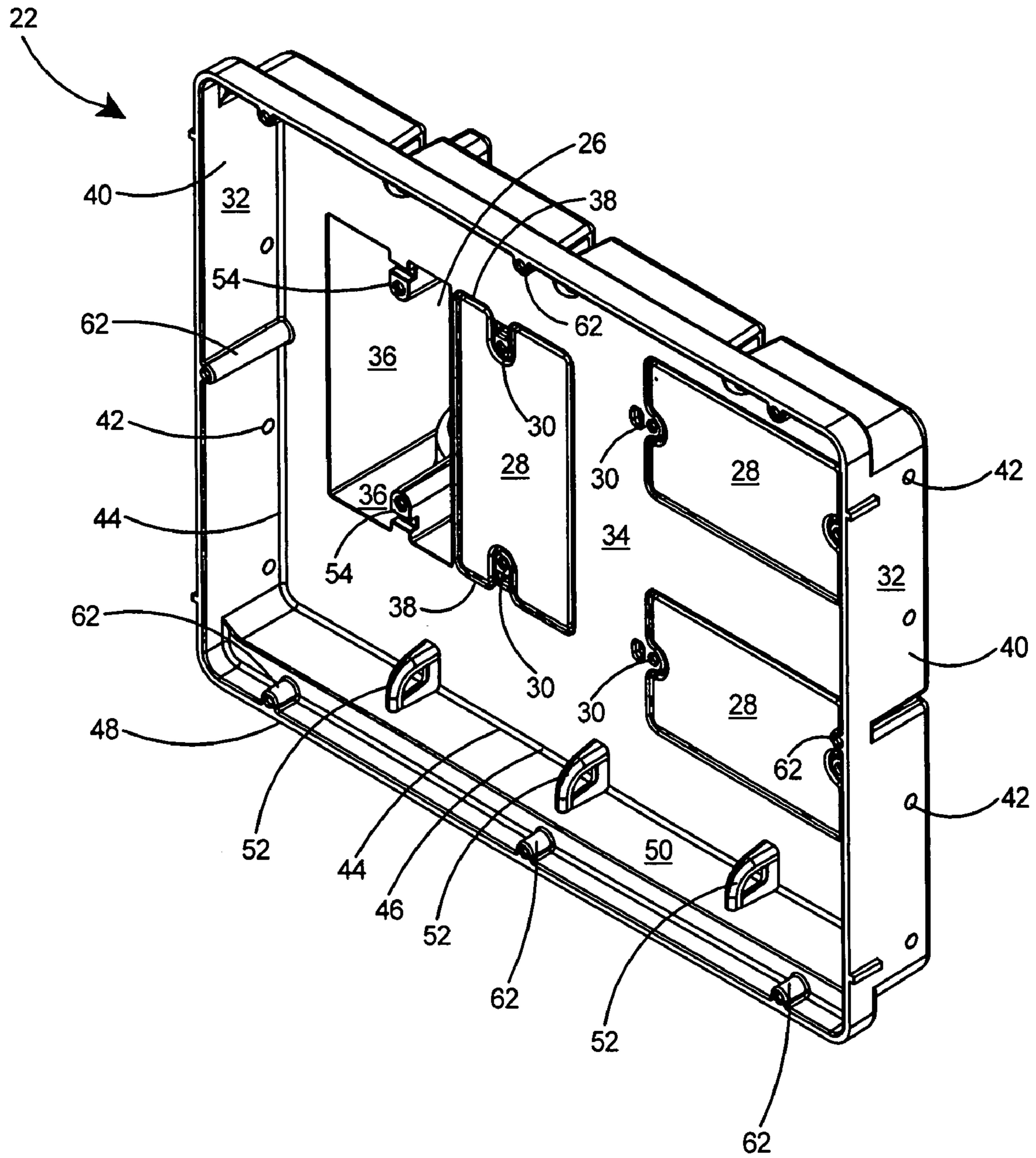


Fig. 2

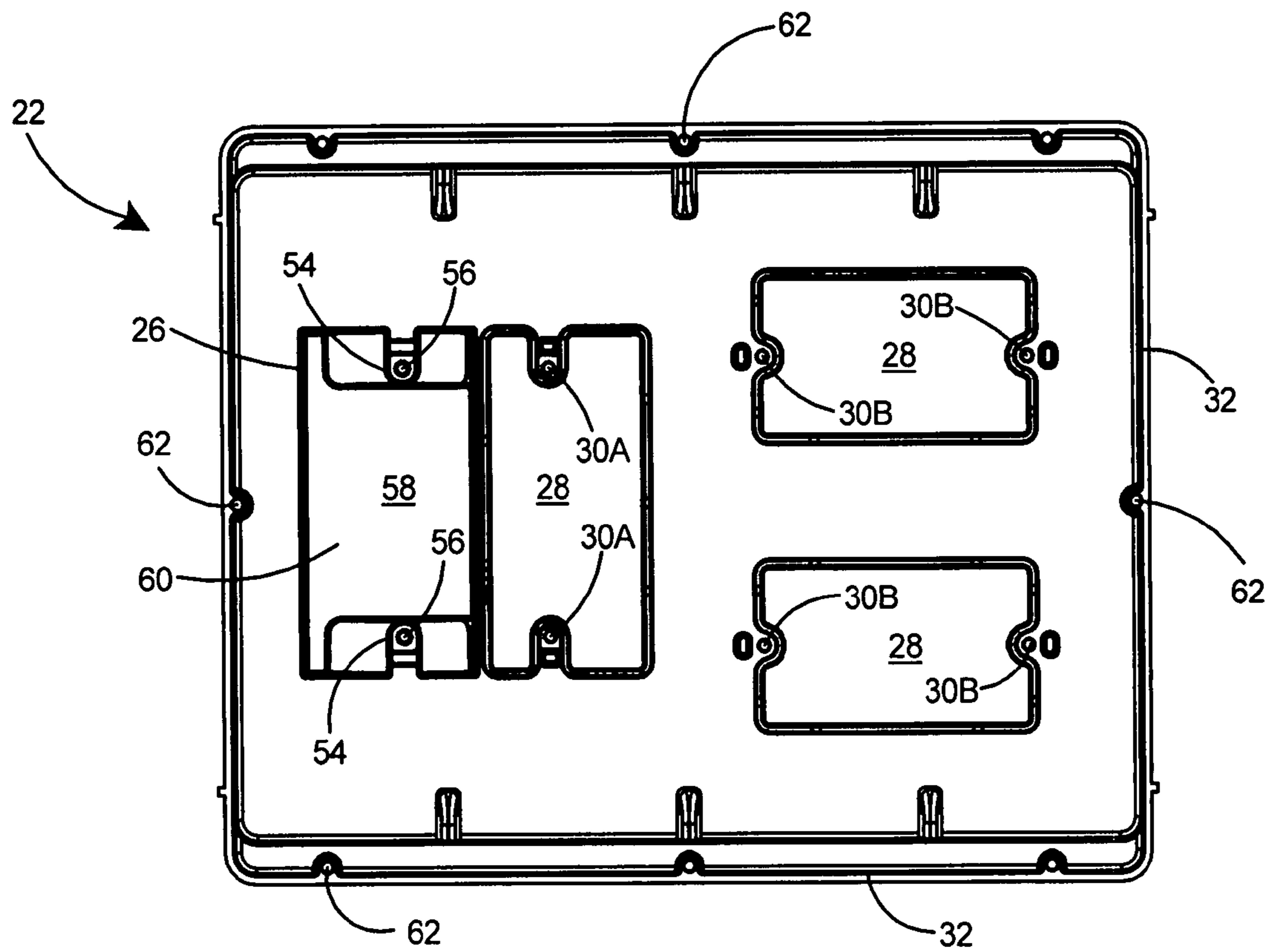


Fig. 3

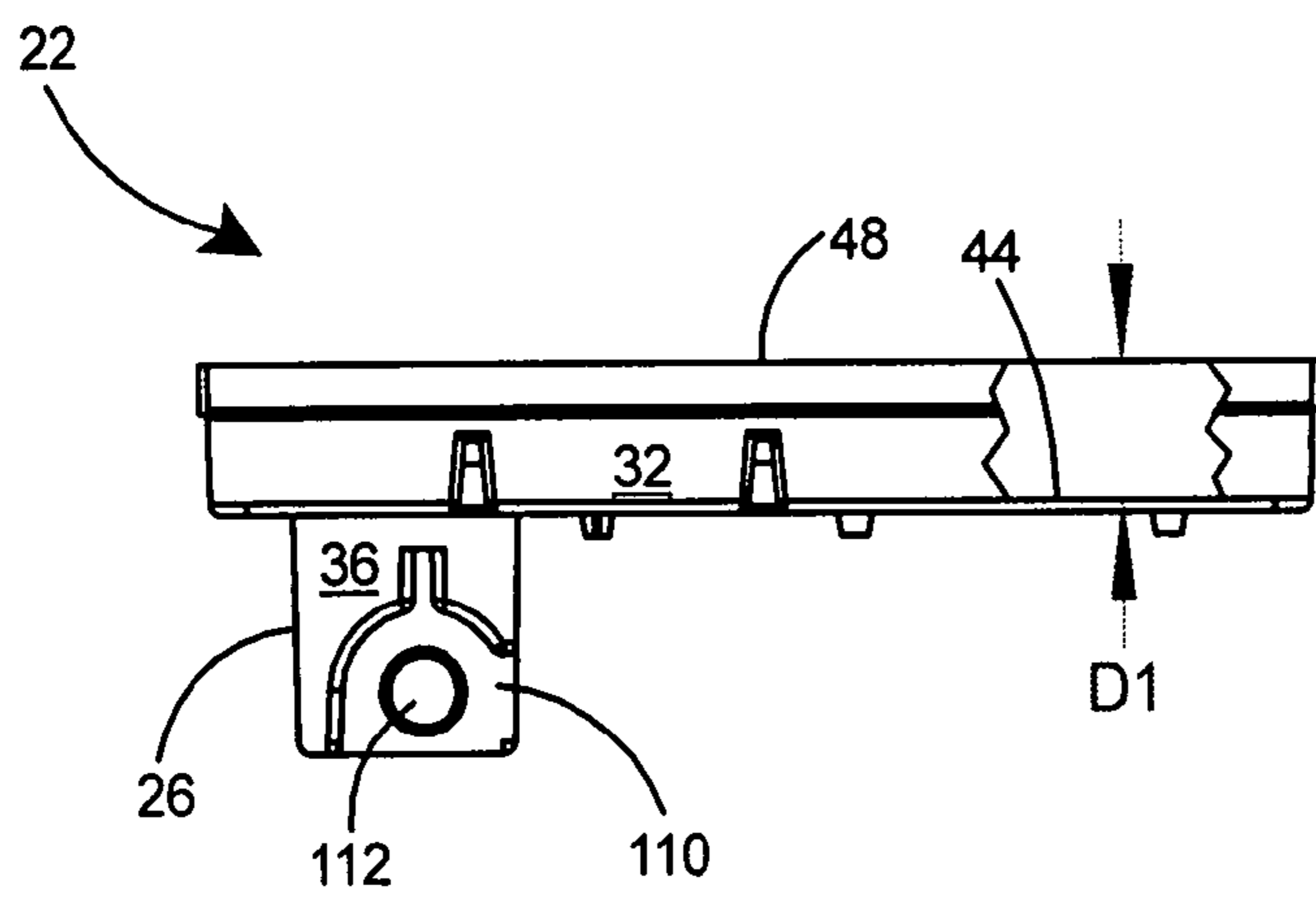


Fig. 4

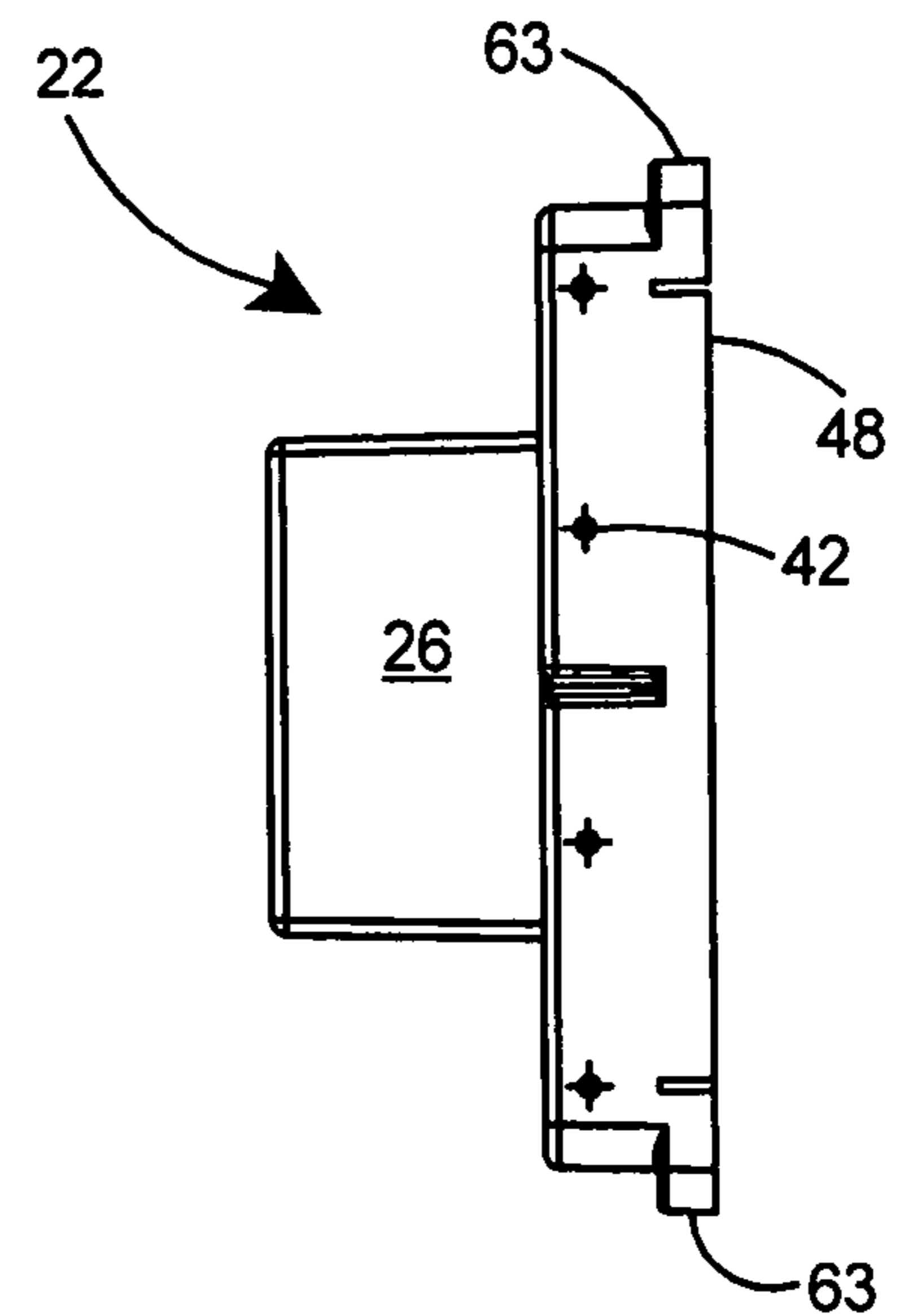


Fig. 4A

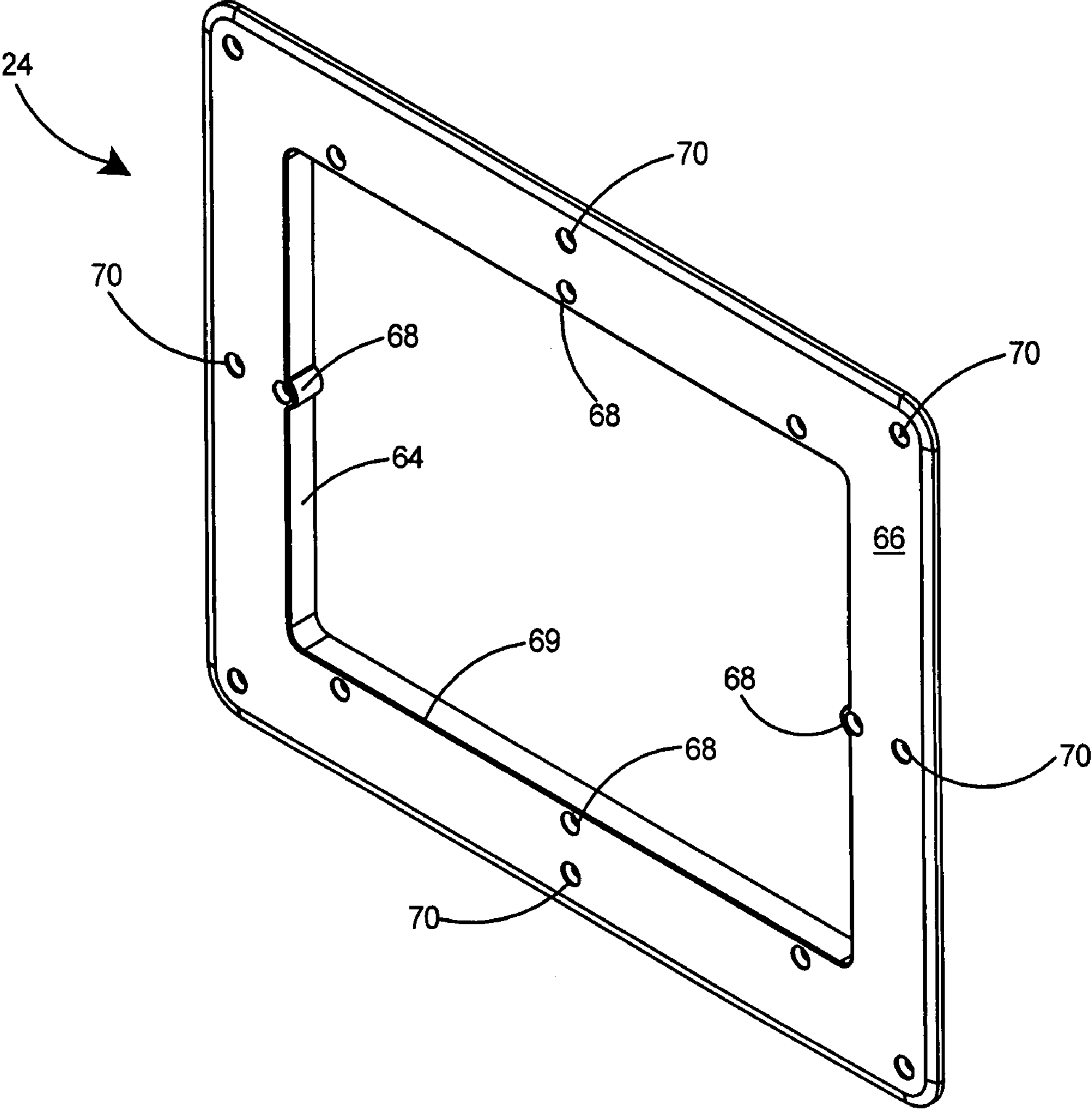


Fig. 5

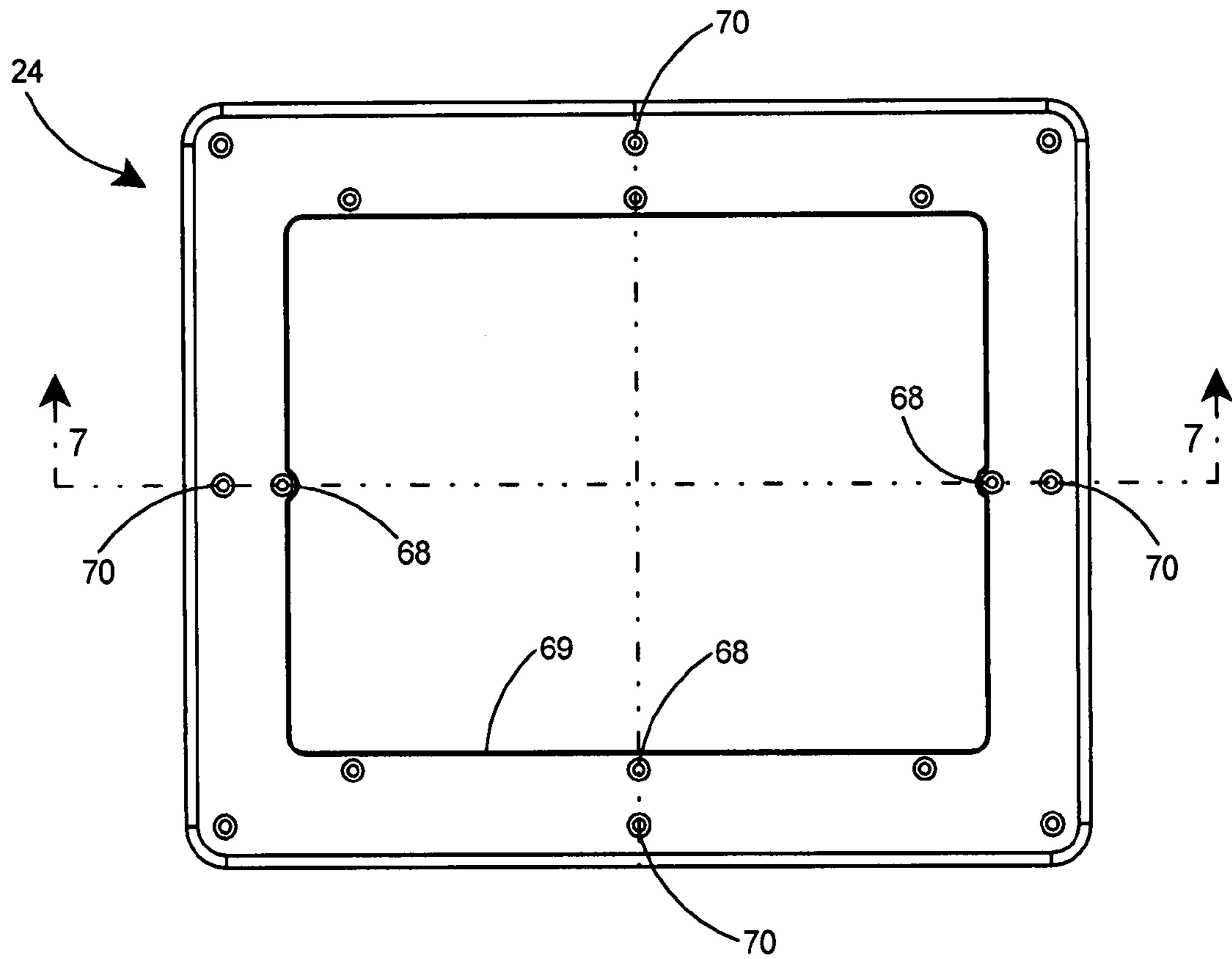


Fig. 6

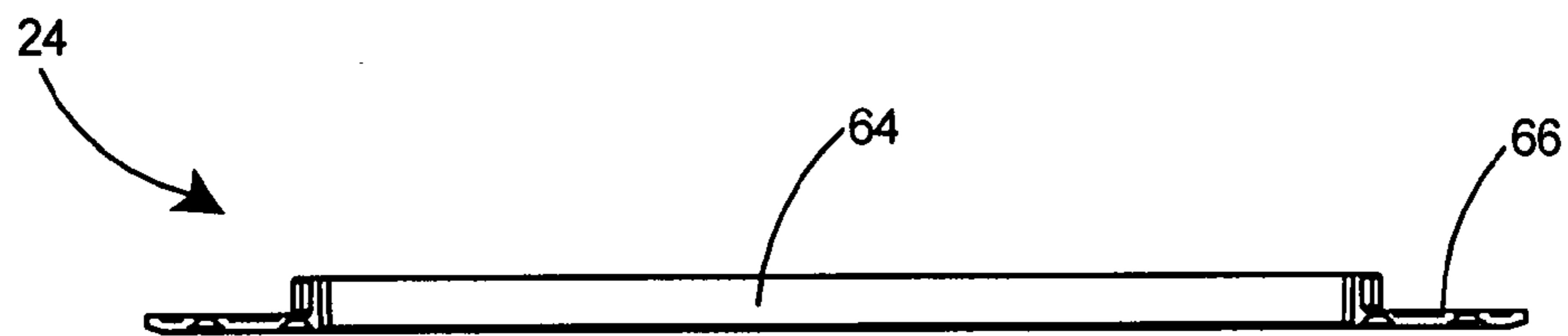


Fig. 7

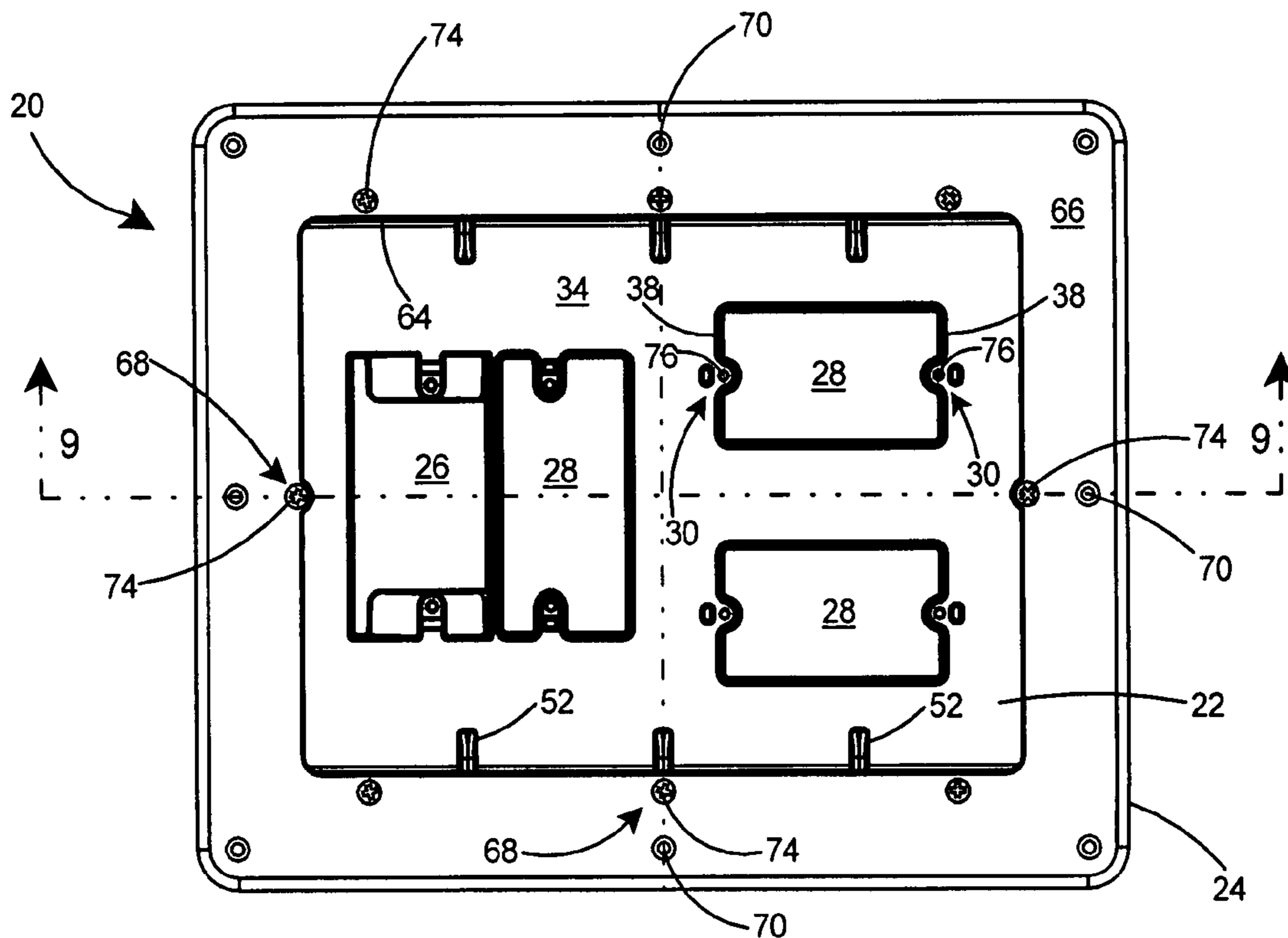


Fig. 8

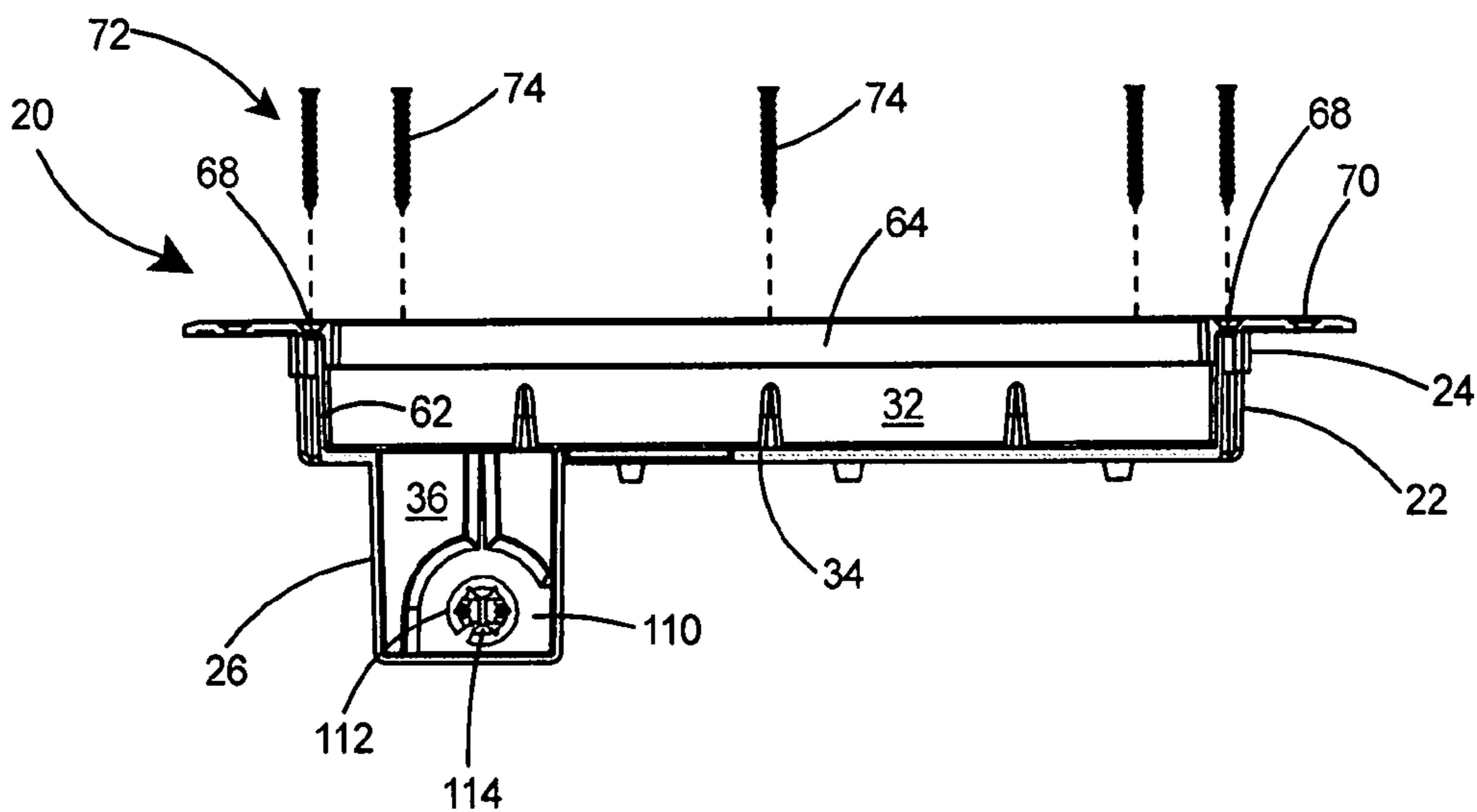


Fig. 9

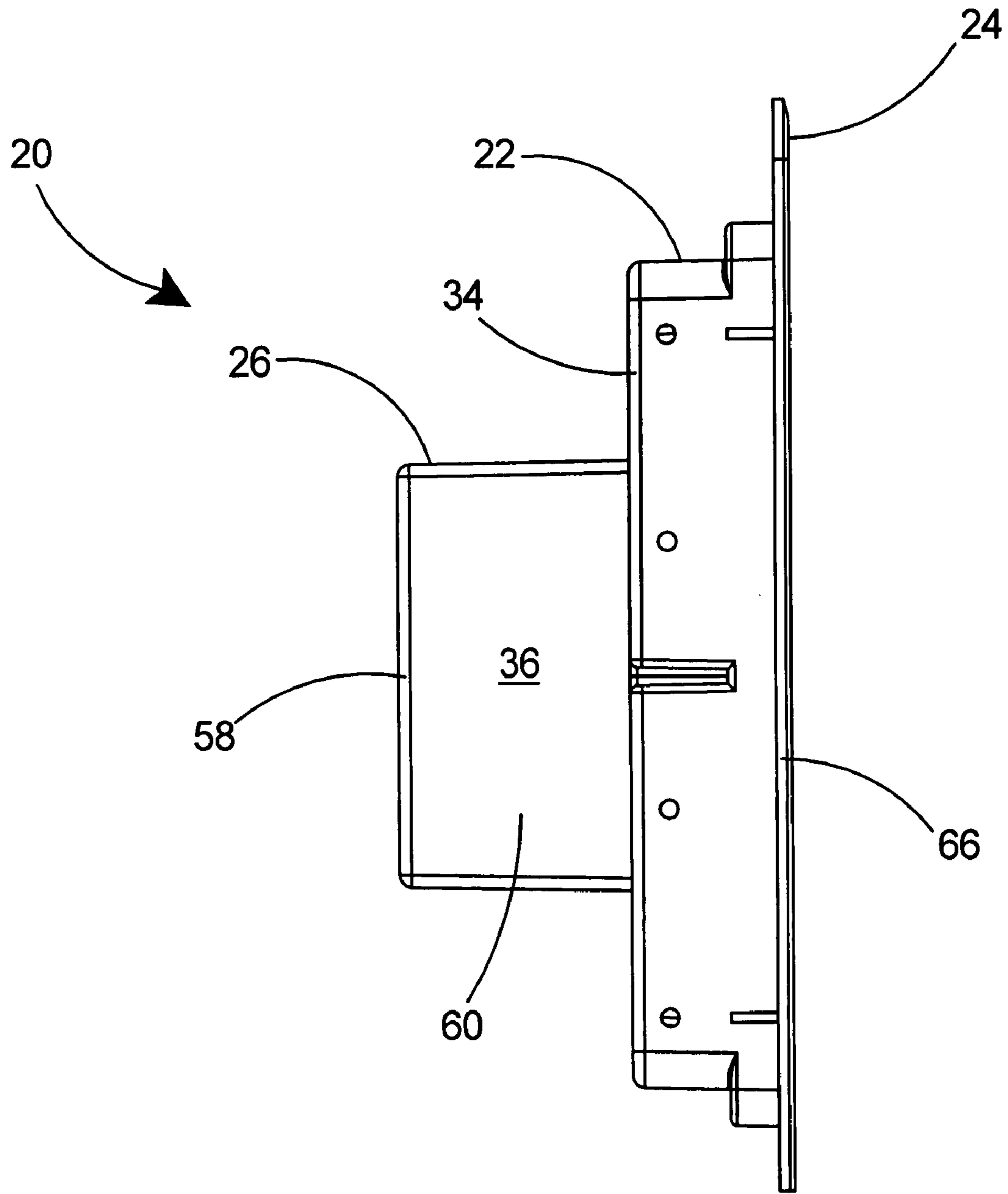


Fig. 10

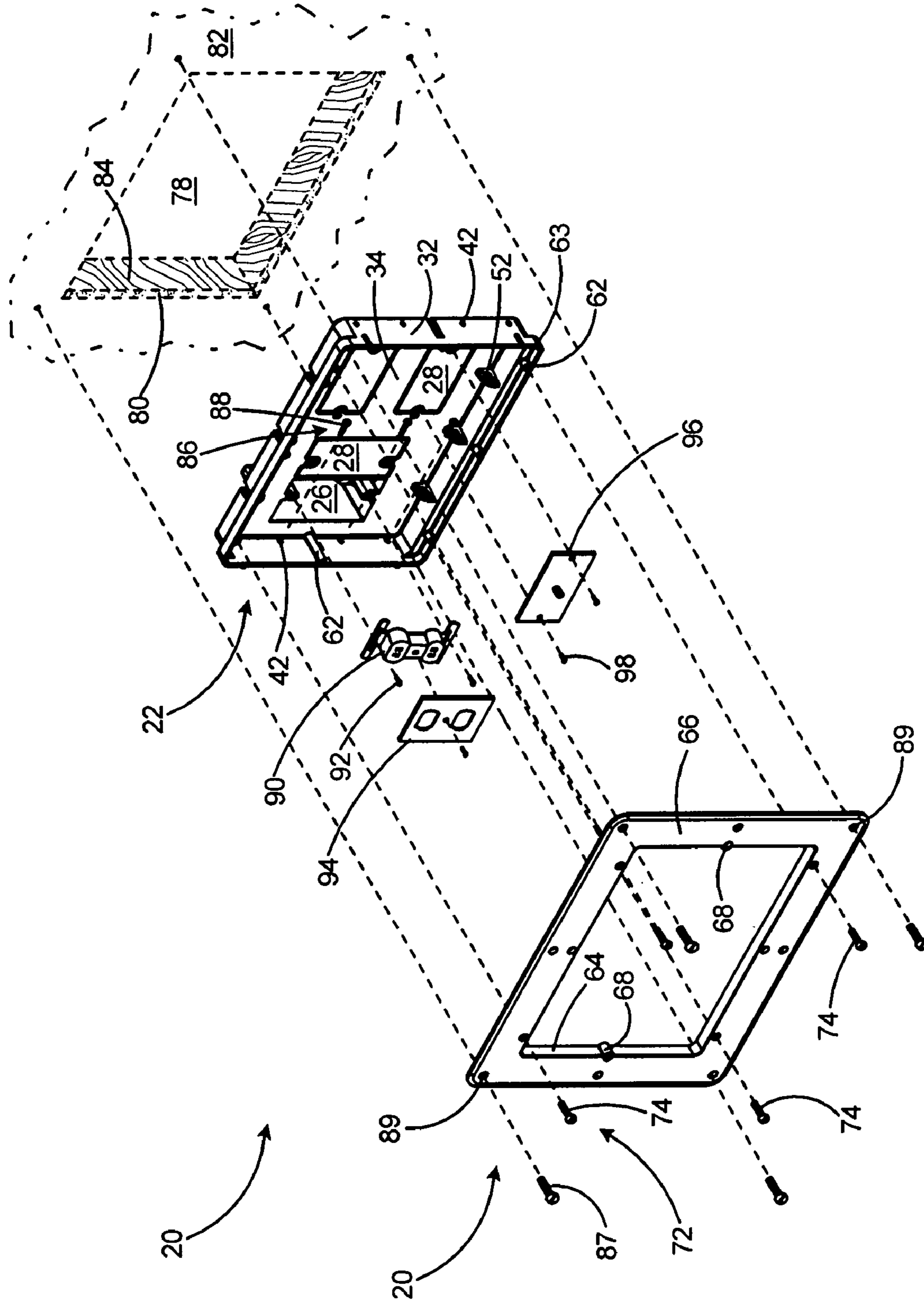


Fig. 11

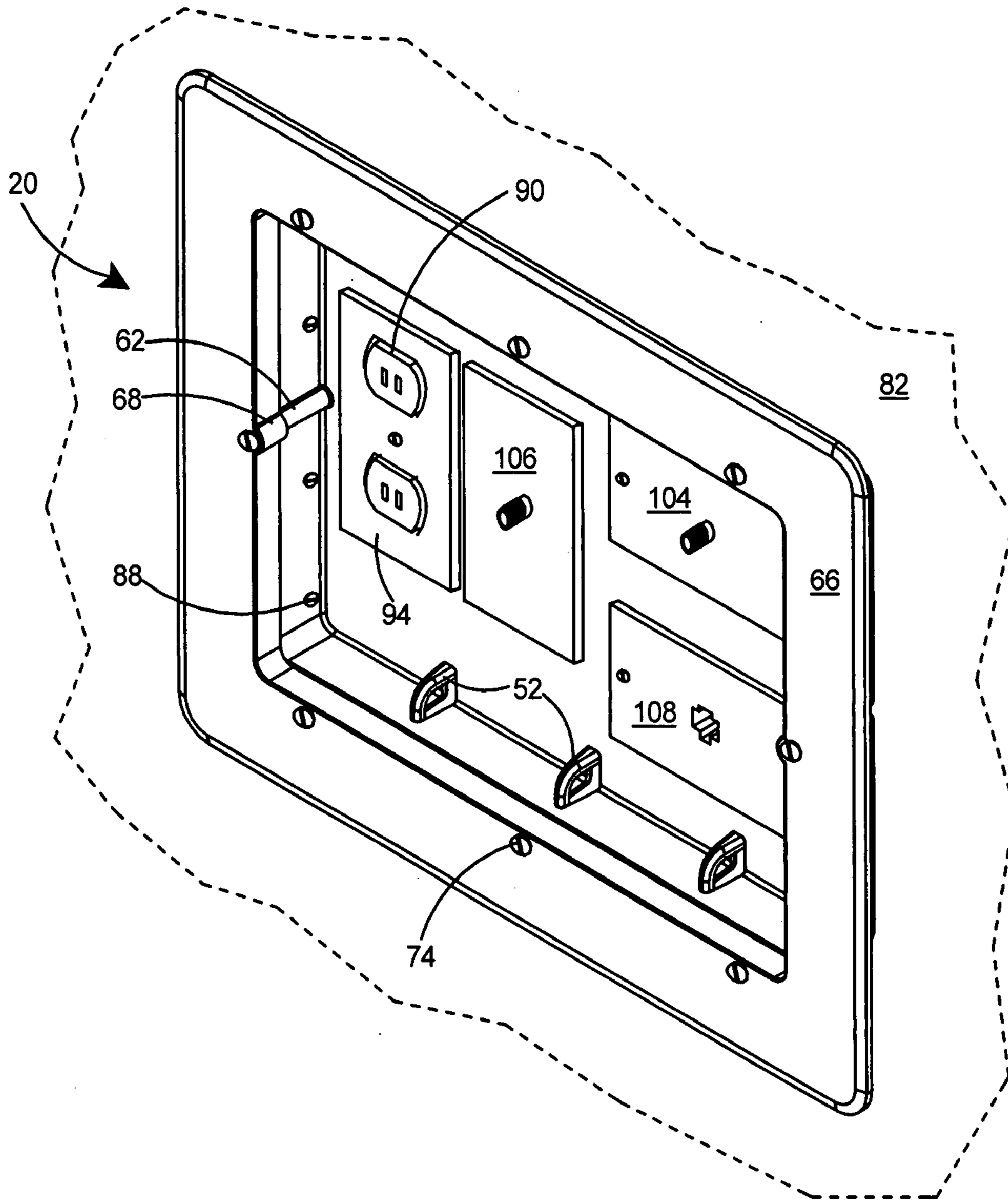


Fig. 13

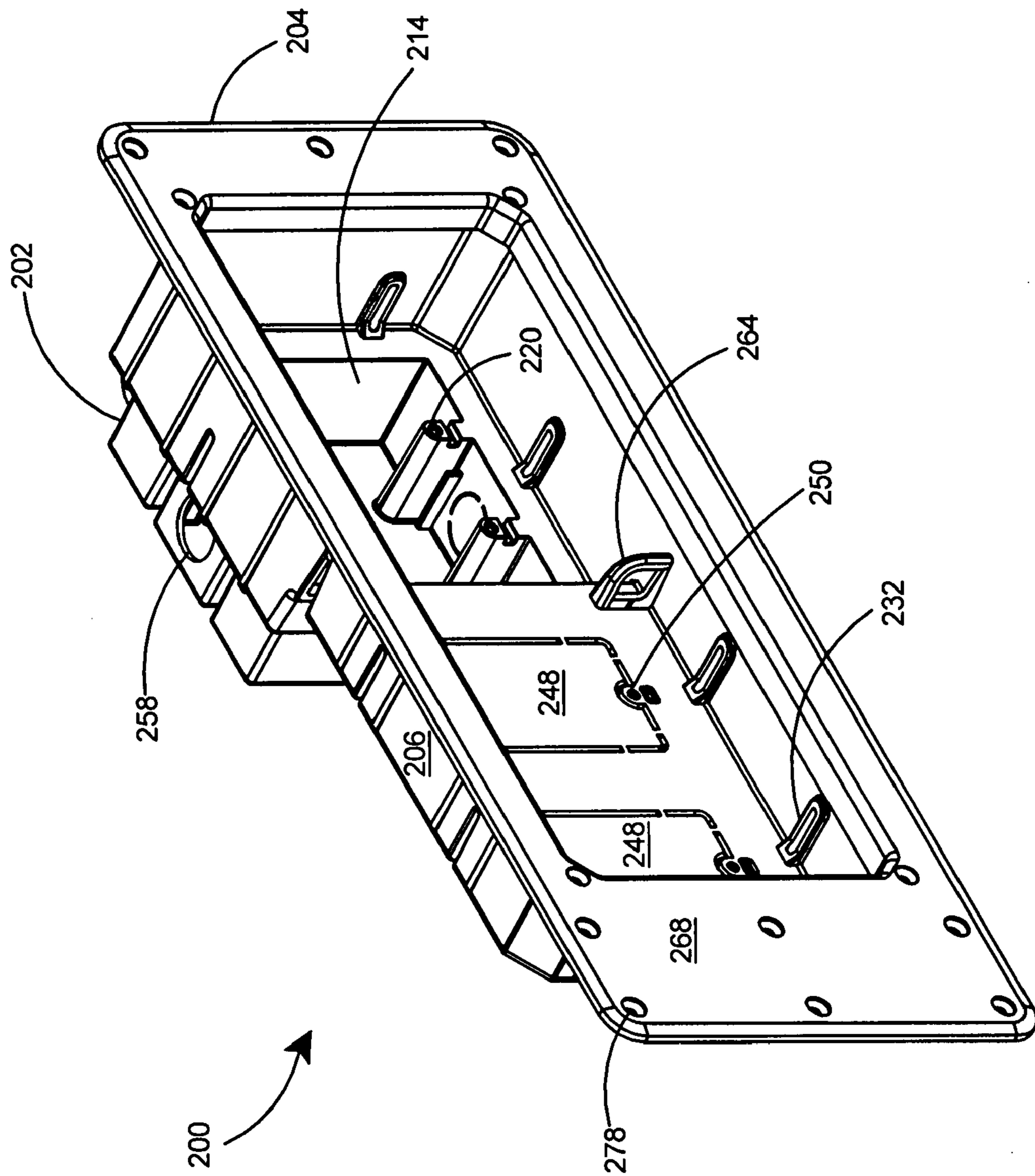


Fig. 14

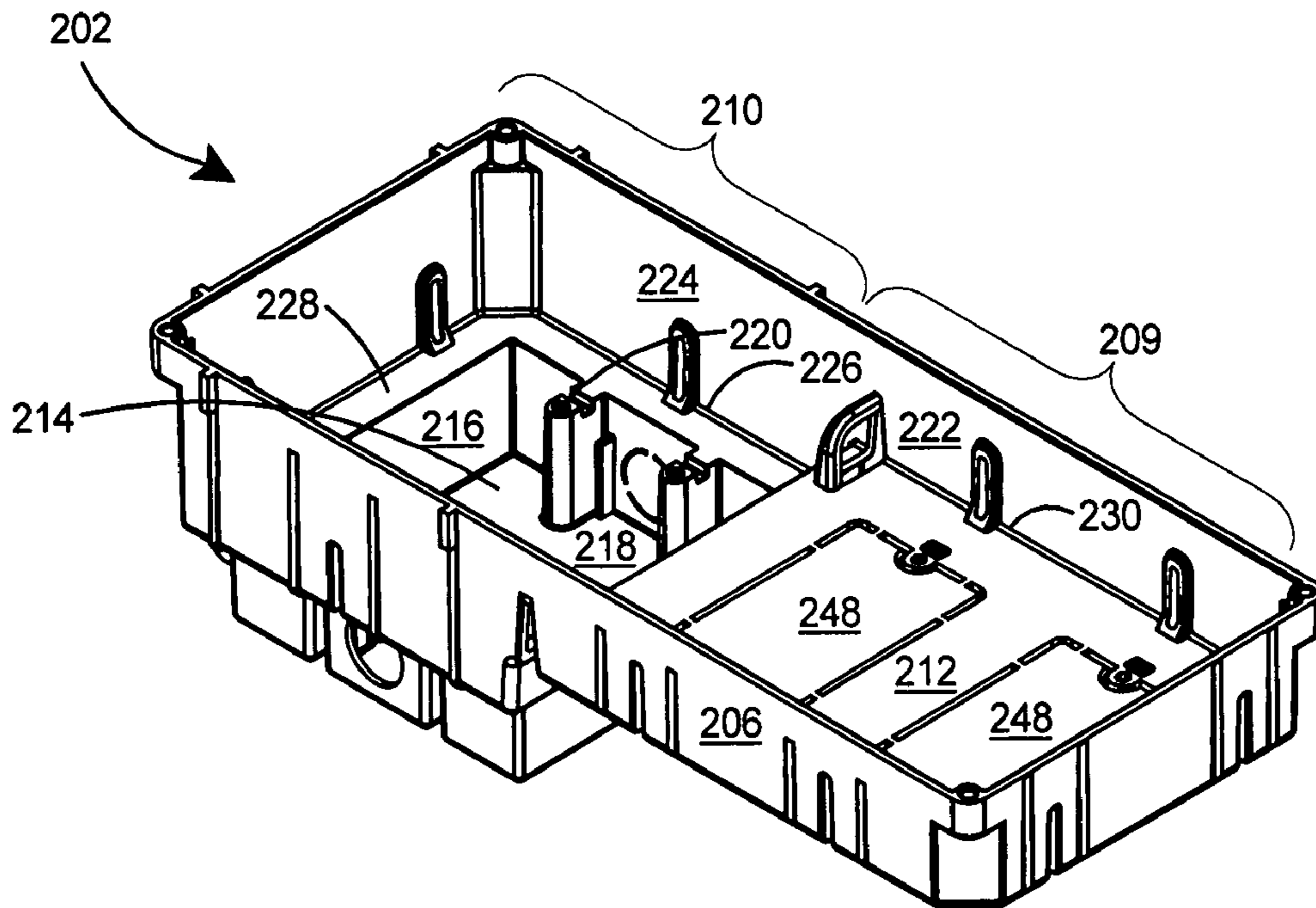


Fig. 15

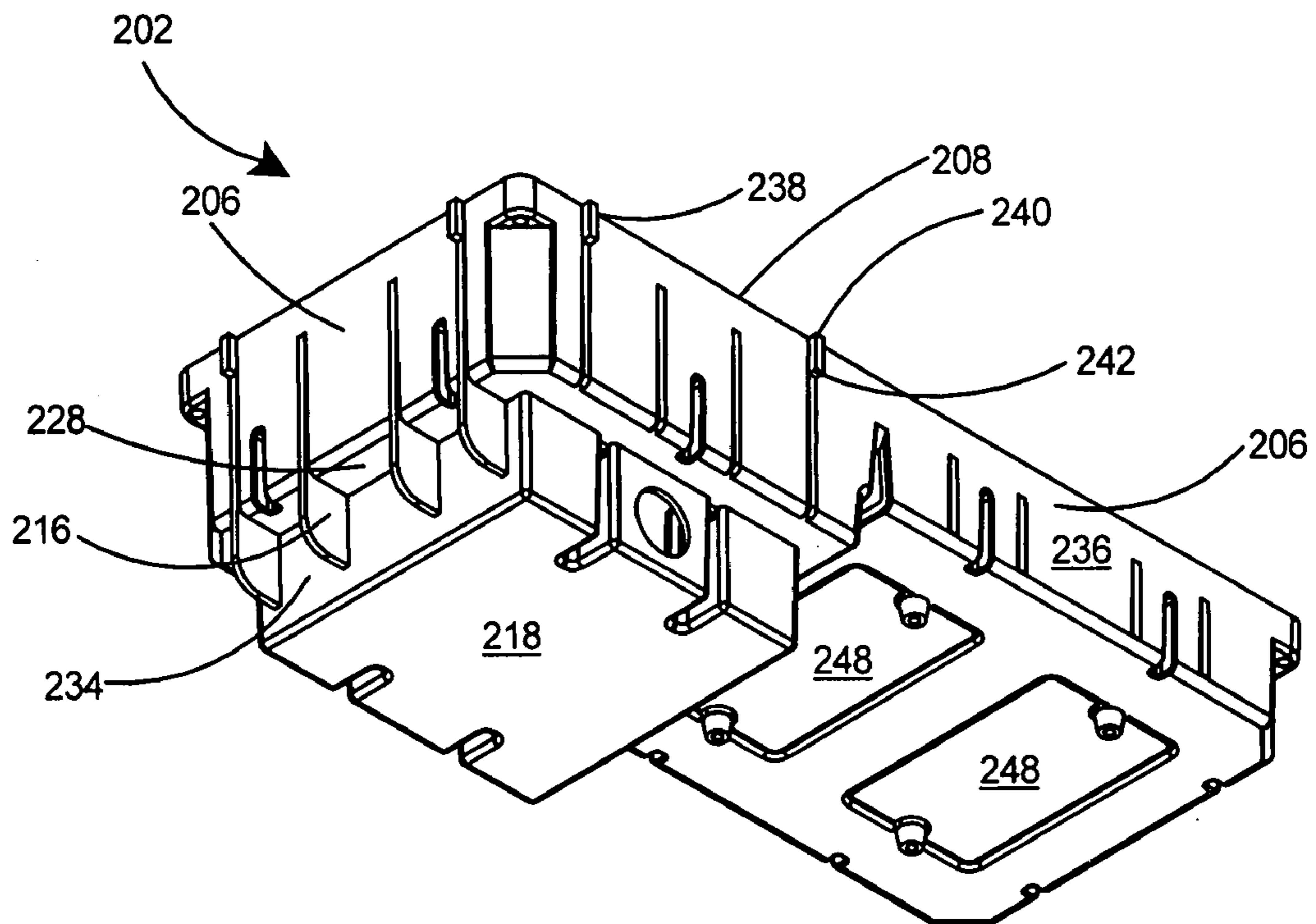


Fig. 16

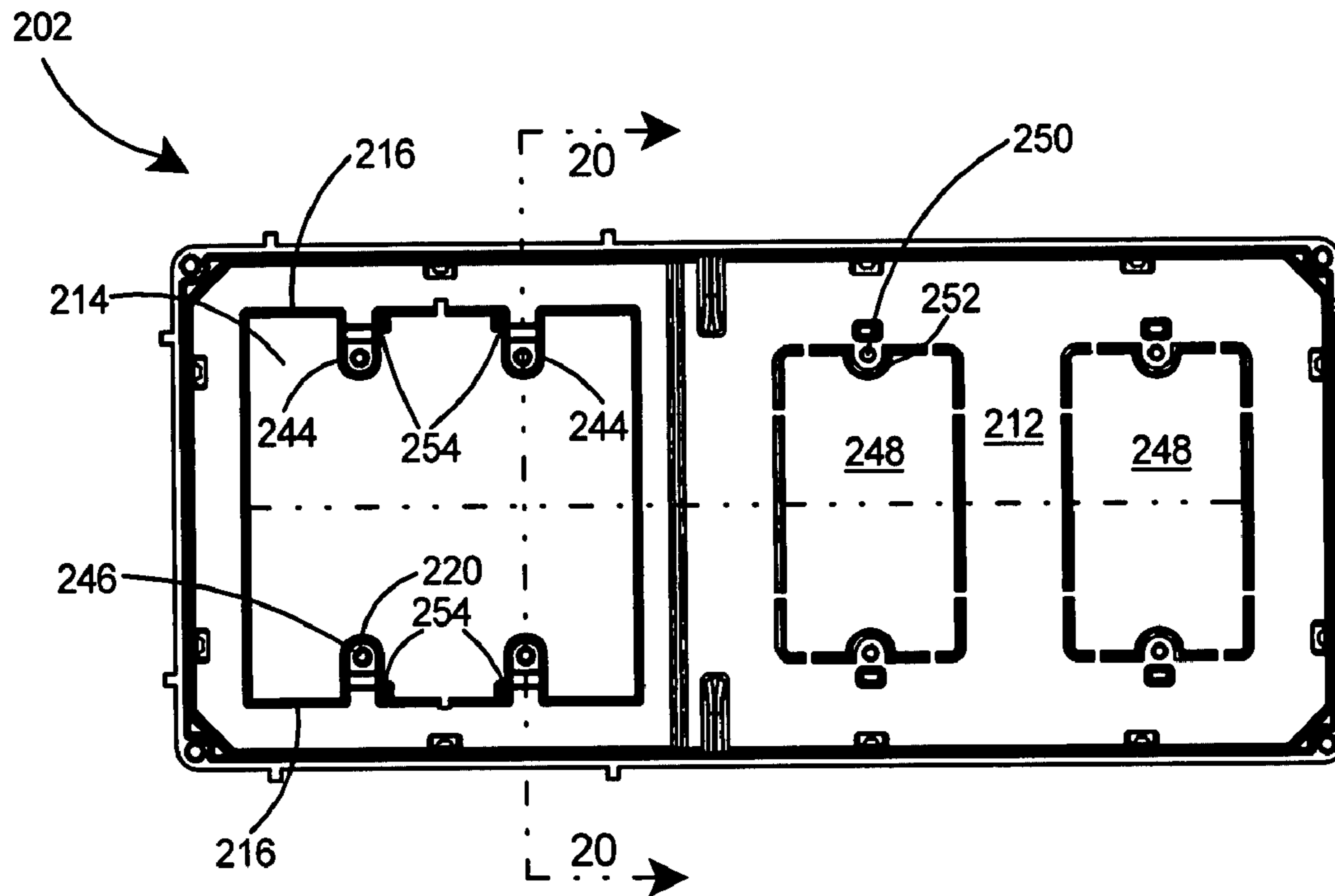


Fig. 17

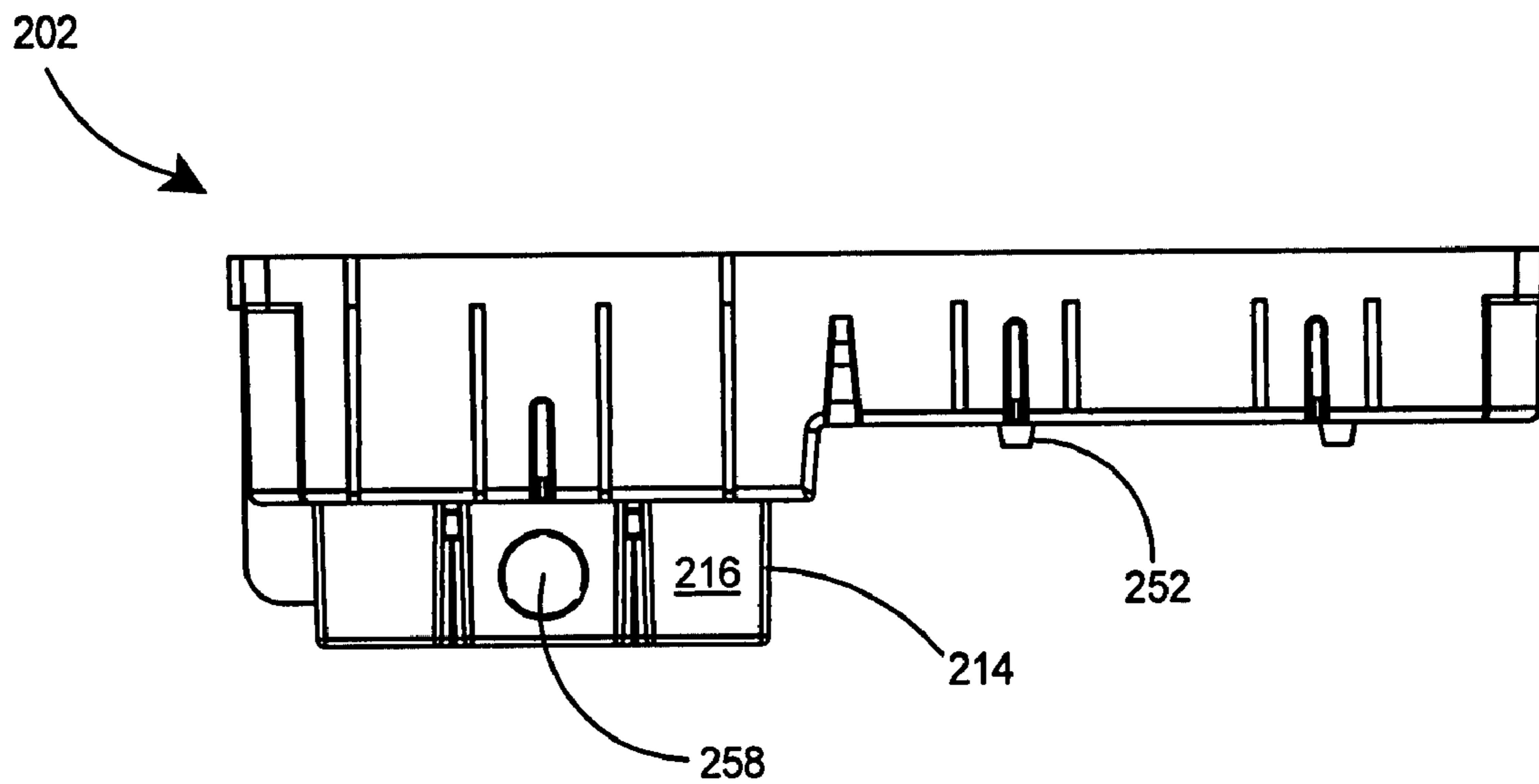


Fig. 18

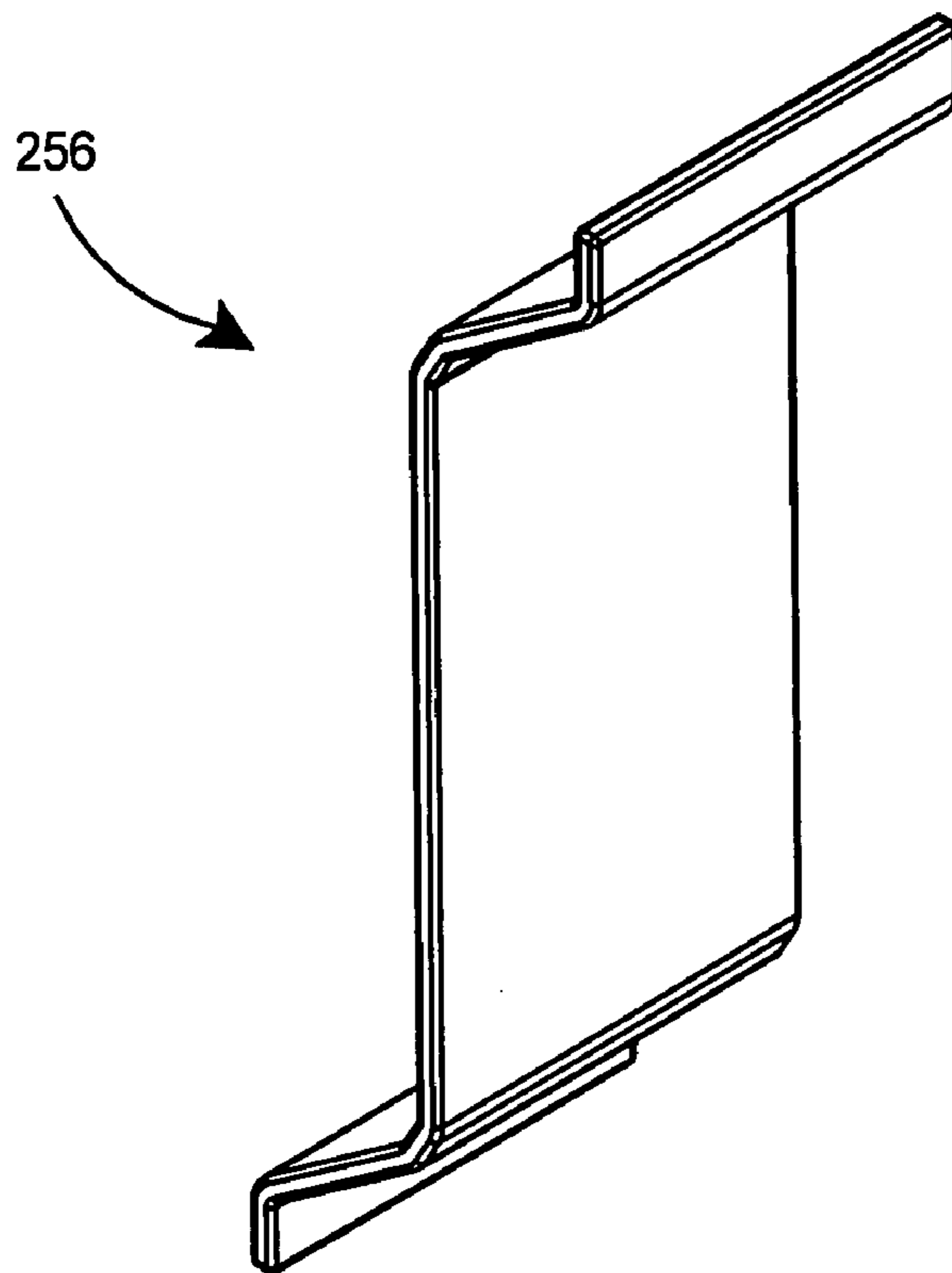


Fig. 19

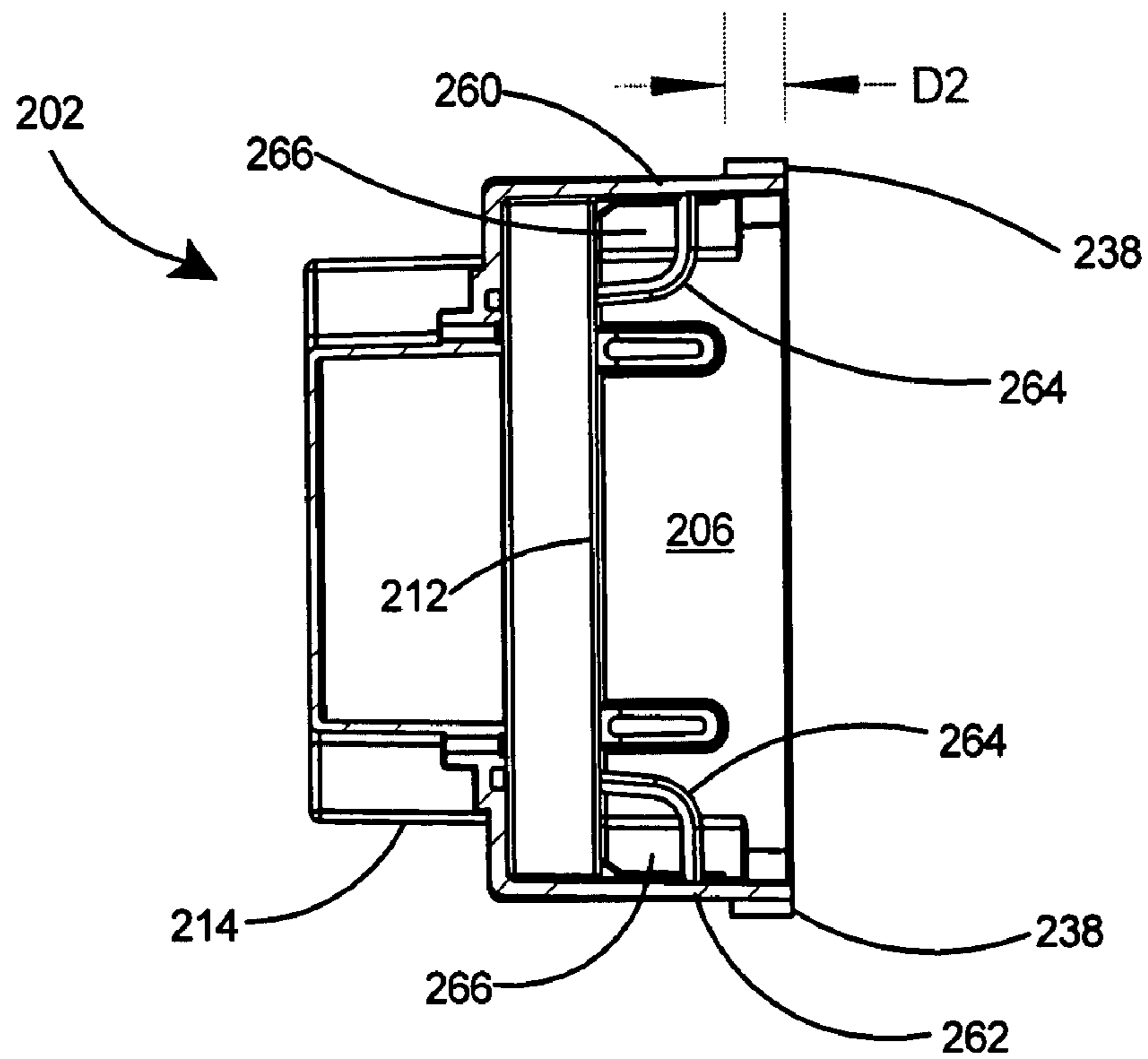


Fig. 20

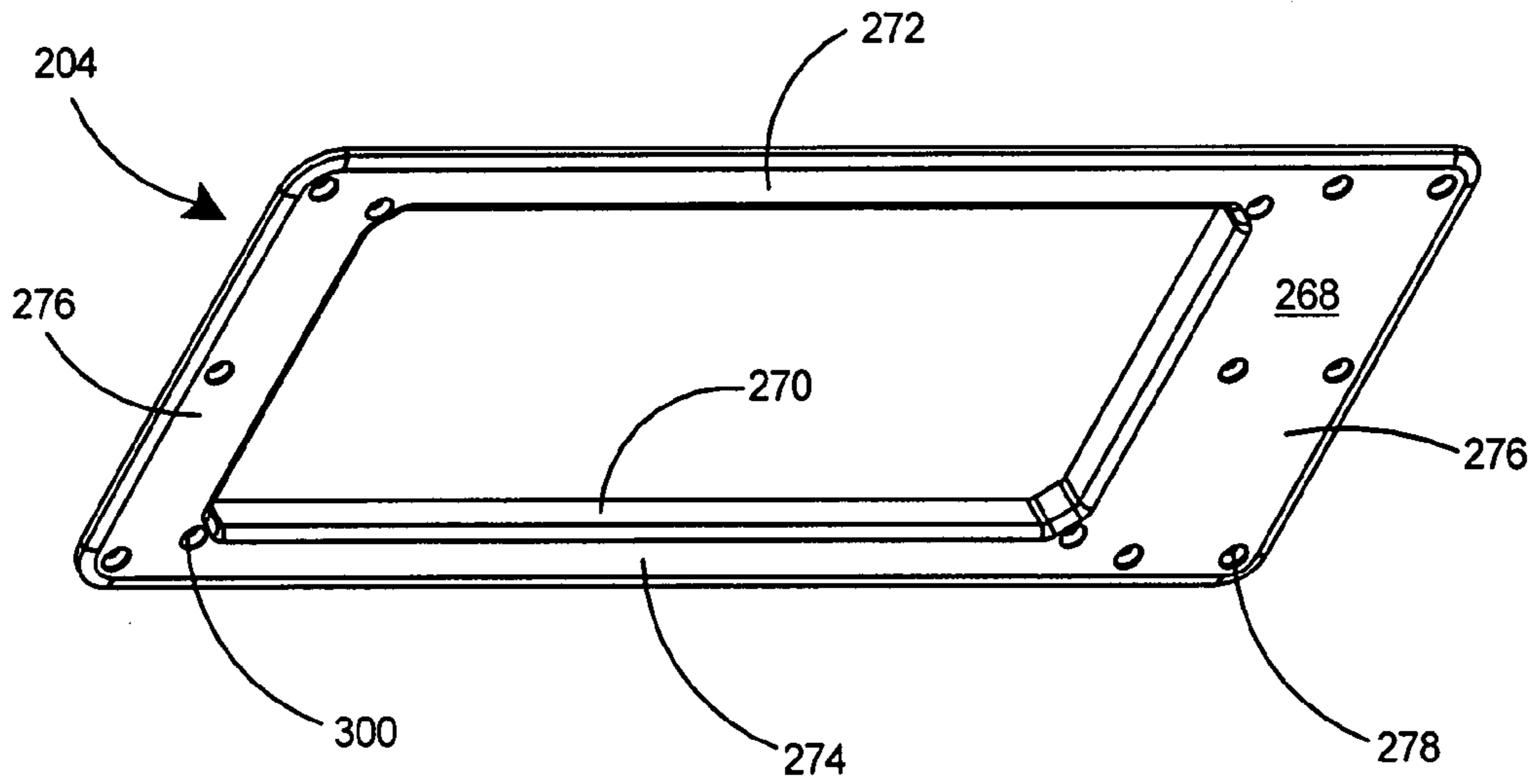


Fig. 21

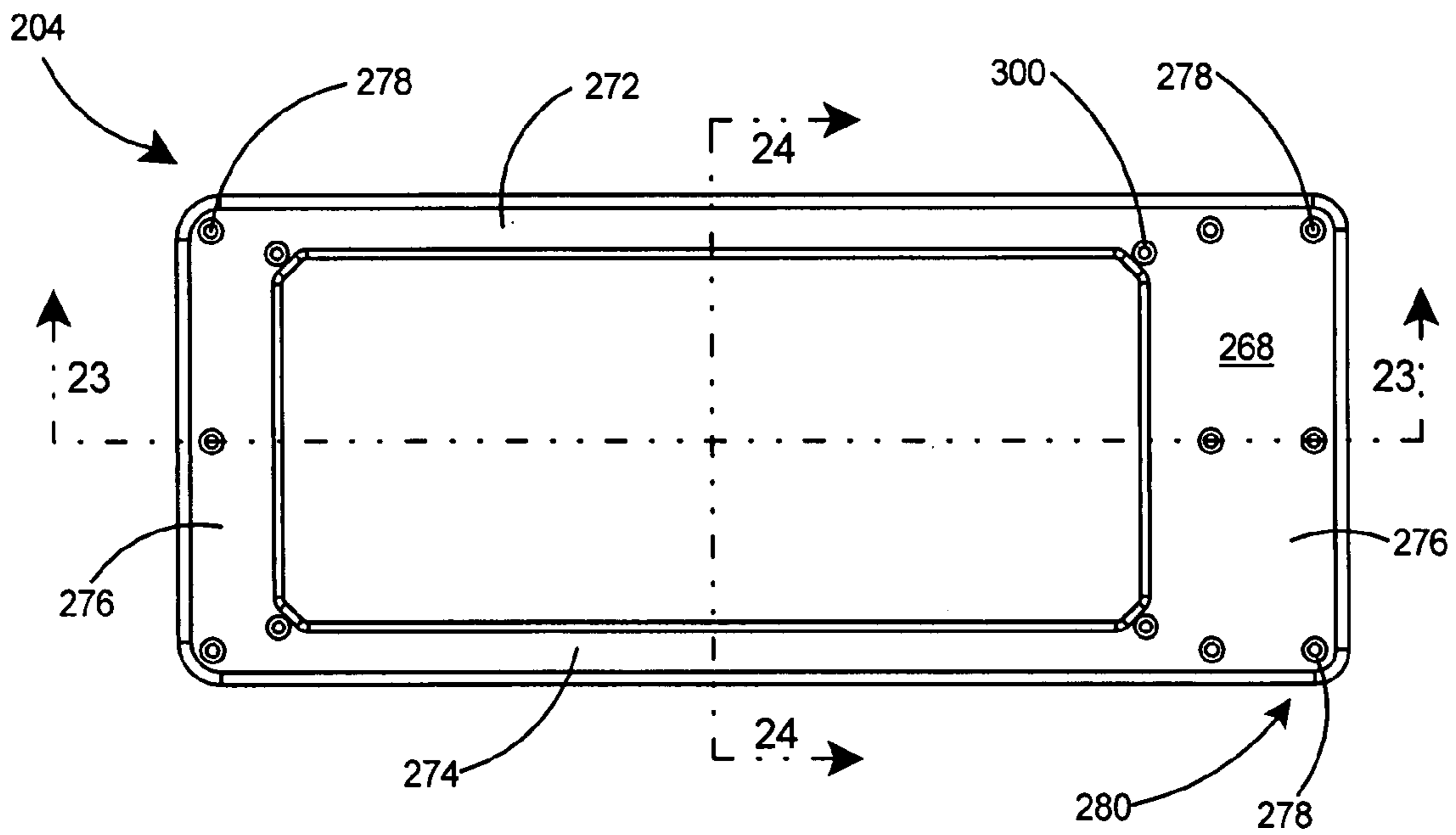


Fig. 22

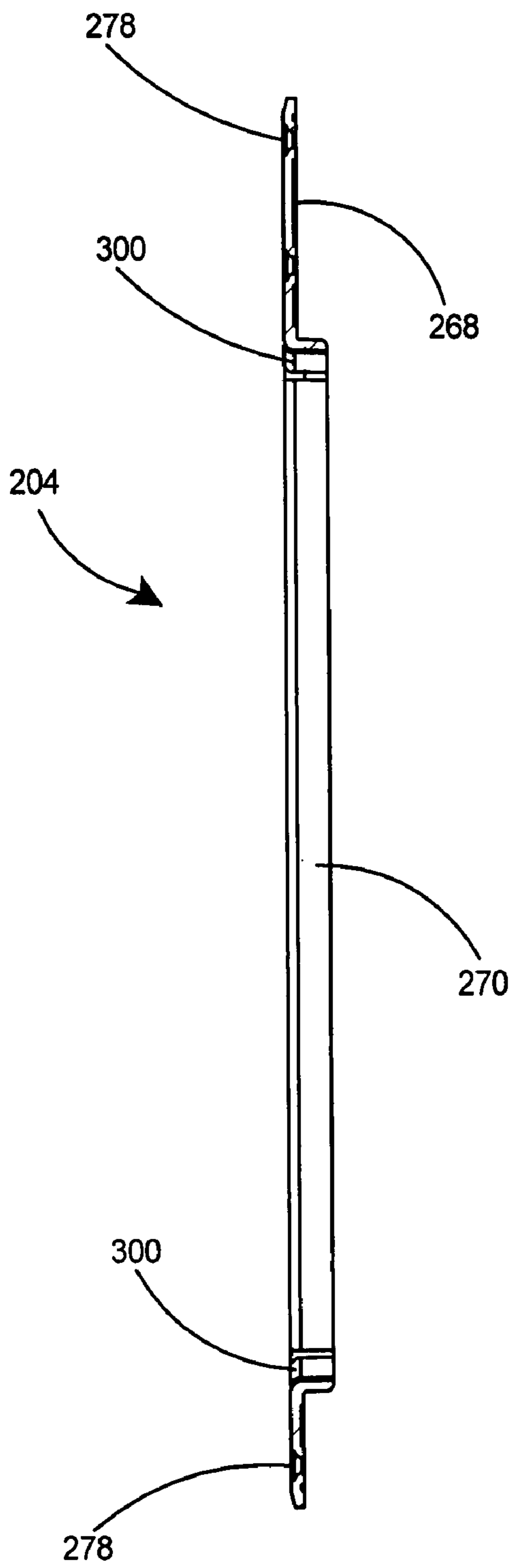


Fig. 23

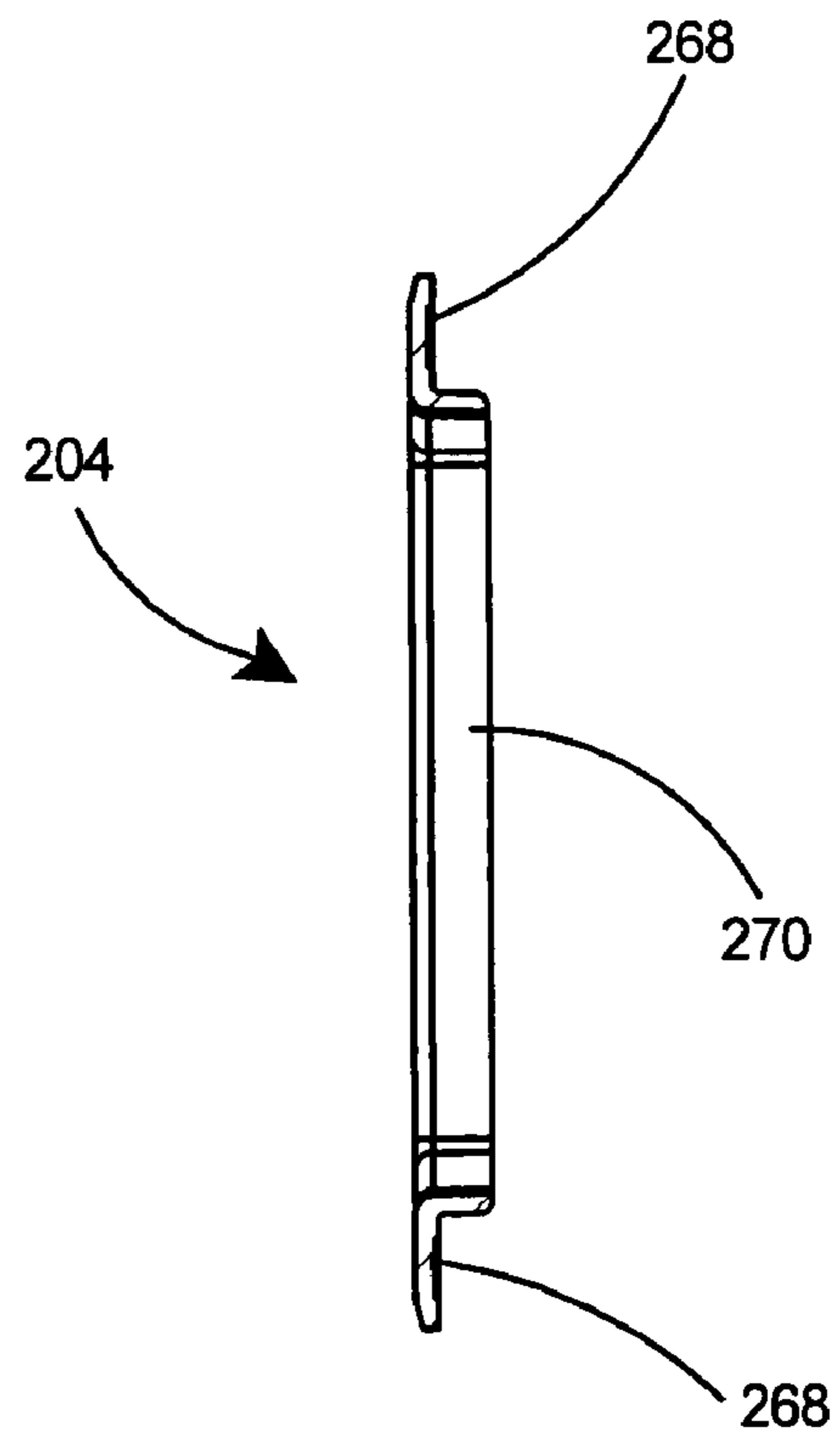


Fig. 24

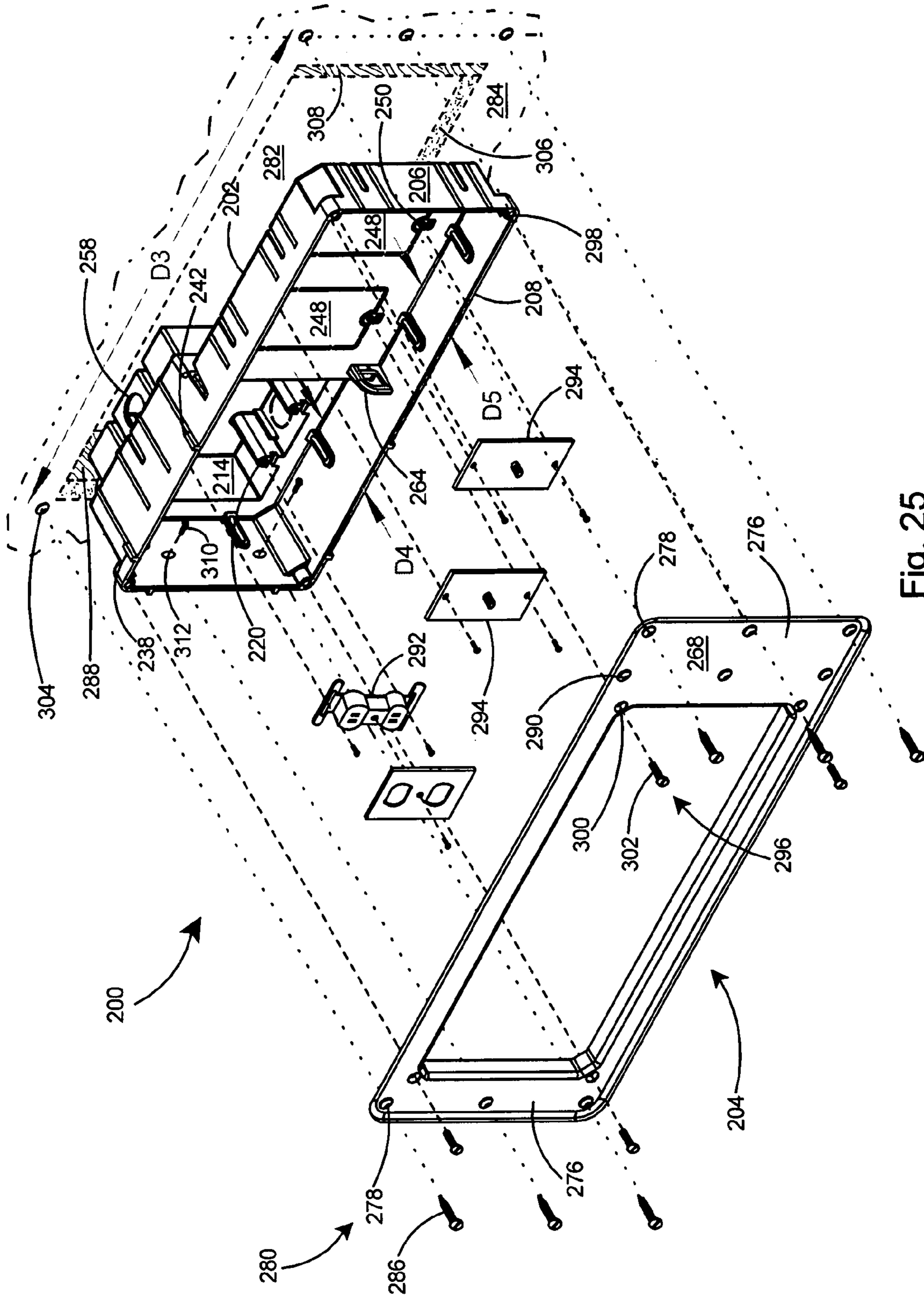


Fig. 25

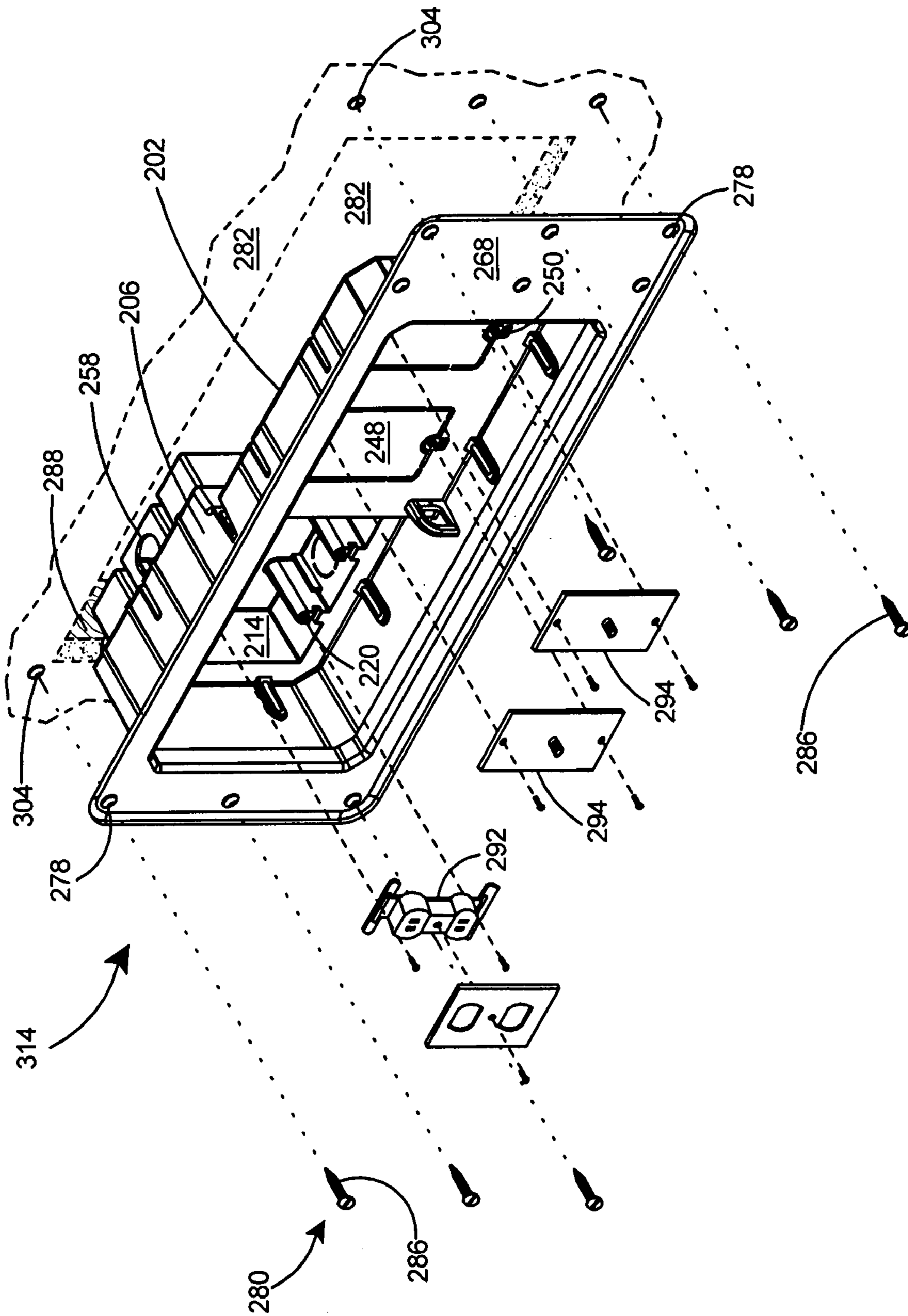


Fig. 26

1**ELECTRICAL BOX ASSEMBLY FOR
RECESSED MOUNTING OF HIGH AND LOW
VOLTAGE COMPONENTS**

This application is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/713,381 filed Mar. 2, 2007 and still pending, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to electrical box assemblies for mounting components for high and low voltage devices and specifically to a flat panel TV box assembly that can be easily installed on an interior wall of a building to provide a recessed housing for electrical services and cable TV connections to a television, computer, or home stereo system.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

With the proliferation of high definition televisions and various auxiliary devices, such as digital videodisc players, game stations, and surround sound systems, there is a need to manage the connections between these devices to ensure there is adequate power and also to manage the myriad of cables and cords that accompany such systems. Additionally, many electrical boxes for both high and low voltage components mount the components flush with the wall, which makes the plugs or connectors that mate with the wall-mounted components susceptible to damage, such as when devices, such as vacuum cleaners or other household hazards brush against the plugs or connectors.

What is needed therefore is an electrical box assembly that provides connection points for both high and low voltage components, provides isolation of high voltage connections from low voltage connections, provides features for managing the plethora of cables and wiring associated with modern television systems, and recesses the end connector of cords or cables to protect the plug ends of cords or end connectors of cables from undesirable contact with household appliances or household occupants.

An electrical box assembly was disclosed by the inventor in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/713,381, filed Mar. 2, 2007, and commonly owned with the present invention. The electrical box assembly of U.S. Ser. No. 11/713,381 included a box member and a frame member that formed an electrical box assembly for recessing high and low voltage electrical components within the wall of a structure and providing a mounting area for organizing the various electrical leads that supply a home entertainment center, such as a TV or stereo system. The current invention provides an improved electrical box assembly that accommodates two high voltage components and recesses the high voltage components farther within the wall and also provides an extended flange for more secure mounting of the electrical box assembly to a wall.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention is an electrical box assembly that provides electrical service including line voltage and signal line hookups for a television or home entertainment center. The electrical box assembly recesses electrical components within the wall to make them unobtrusive and out of the way. The box assembly includes an integral electrical box for housing two line voltage connections and connection points

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for several low voltage openings. The low voltage connection points are capable of accepting standard jacks for broadband cable, direct TV, surround sound cabling, or phone systems. The electrical box assembly includes a box member, a frame member, and an extended flange on the frame member to enable secure mounting to a pair of studs. The electrical box assembly enables easy consolidation of all the various electrical and signal hookups for TV or home entertainment systems.

OBJECTS AND ADVANTAGES

The electrical box assembly of the present invention includes several advantages over the prior art, including:

- (1) Connection points are provided for mounting both high and low voltage components. An electrical box, integral with the box member of the assembly, is provided for housing and isolating a plurality of high voltage components, such as a duplex receptacle to provide line voltage to a TV or other electrical device. Connection points are also provided for mounting several low voltage components, such as a coupling plate for a coaxial cable.
- (2) The electrical box assembly includes a backward projecting box portion that mounts within a wall, thereby recessing electrical devices within the wall to render them unobtrusive and out of the way. By recessing the electrical devices, the plug ends of cords or end connectors of cables are advantageously protected from undesirable contact with household appliances, household occupants, or other hazards.
- (3) The electrical box assembly provides features for managing the plethora of cables and wiring associated with modern television systems, including integral loops for bundling and tying-off wires and cables, thereby providing a clean installation that is unobtrusive and minimizes excessive wires and cables running between the wall and the television, speaker system, or other components of a home entertainment system. The loops are positioned against the back wall of the box member, thereby positioning the wires and cables along the back wall of the assembly and advantageously recessing them behind the wall surface and away from household hazards.
- (4) Mounting apertures are provided to coincide with the standard stud spacing to meet local construction codes. As a result, the electrical box assembly can be securely mounted between and supported by two adjacent studs.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be better understood by reading the following description along with reference to the drawings.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of a flat panel TV box assembly according to the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a box member that forms a portion of the flat panel TV box assembly of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a front view of the box member of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a bottom view of the box member of FIG. 3.

FIG. 4A is a side view of the box member of FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a frame member that forms a portion of the flat panel TV box assembly of FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a front view of the frame member of FIG. 5.

FIG. 7 is a sectional view of the frame member taken along line 7-7 of FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is a front view of the flat panel TV box assembly of FIG. 1.

FIG. 9 is a sectional view of the flat panel TV box assembly taken along line 9-9 of FIG. 8.

FIG. 10 is a side view of the flat panel TV box assembly of FIG. 8.

FIG. 11 is an exploded perspective view of the flat panel TV box assembly of the present invention including some high and low voltage components in alignment with the box assembly to be installed therein.

FIG. 12 is a side view of the flat panel TV box assembly with a portion of the frame member and box member cut away to show a duplex power receptacle and an electrical cord plugged therein.

FIG. 13 is a perspective view of a flat panel TV box assembly according to the present invention installed in a wall and with high and low voltage components installed therein.

FIG. 14 is a perspective view of a second and preferred embodiment of a flat panel TV box assembly according to the present invention.

FIG. 15 is a front perspective view of the preferred embodiment of a box member that forms a portion of the flat panel TV box assembly of FIG. 14.

FIG. 16 is a rear perspective view of a box member that forms a portion of the flat panel TV box assembly of FIG. 14.

FIG. 17 is a front view of the box member of FIG. 15.

FIG. 18 is a bottom view of the box member of FIG. 15.

FIG. 19 is a perspective view of a divider wall that forms a portion of the preferred embodiment of the electrical box assembly of the present invention.

FIG. 20 is a sectional view of the box member taken along line 20-20 of FIG. 17.

FIG. 21 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of a frame member that forms a portion of the flat panel TV box assembly of FIG. 14.

FIG. 22 is a front view of the frame member of FIG. 21.

FIG. 23 is a sectional view of the frame member taken along line 23-23 of FIG. 22.

FIG. 24 is a sectional view of the frame member taken along line 24-24 of FIG. 22.

FIG. 25 is an exploded perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the flat panel TV box assembly of the present invention including a box member and a frame member and some high and low voltage components in alignment with the box assembly to be installed therein.

FIG. 26 is an exploded perspective view of another preferred embodiment of the flat panel TV box assembly of the present invention including a one-piece box member and some high and low voltage components in alignment with the box assembly to be installed therein.

FIG. 27 is a sectional view of the preferred embodiment of the flat panel TV box assembly mounted in a wall and with a duplex power receptacle secured therein and an electrical cord plugged in the duplex receptacle.

TABLE OF NOMENCLATURE

The following is a listing of part numbers used in the drawings along with a brief description:

Part Number	Description
5	20 electrical box assembly
	22 box member
	24 frame member
	26 electrical box
	28 open area
	30 connection point
10	30A vertically oriented connection point
	30B horizontally oriented connection point
	32 peripheral wall of box member
	34 back wall of box member
	36 sidewalls of electrical box
	38 side of open area
15	40 sidewall portion of peripheral wall
	42 aperture in sidewall of box member
	44 inner edge of peripheral wall
	46 juncture of peripheral wall and back wall
	48 outer edge of peripheral wall
	50 bottom wall
20	52 loop member
	54 boss of electrical box
	56 threaded bore
	58 rear wall of electrical box
	60 high voltage enclosure
	62 boss on peripheral wall of box member
	63 flared portion on sidewalls of peripheral wall
25	64 peripheral flange of frame member
	66 transverse flange of frame member
	68 guide member
	69 inner edge of transverse flange
	70 aperture in transverse flange
	72 attachment arrangement
30	74 fastener for securing frame to box member
	76 aperture for low voltage component
	78 hole
	80 sheet rock
	82 wall
	84 stud
35	86 mounting arrangement
	87 fastener
	88 mounting fastener
	89 apertures in transverse flange
	90 duplex receptacle
	92 fastener
40	94 cover plate
	96 CATV connector plate
	98 fastener
	99 outer edge of electrical box assembly
	100 plug end
	102 electrical cord
	104 horizontally oriented CATV connector
45	106 vertically oriented CATV connector
	108 telephone jack
	110 depressed area
	112 removable wall portion or knockout
	114 push-in electrical connector
50	200 electrical box assembly
	202 box member
	204 frame member
	206 peripheral sidewall
	208 front edge
	209 first portion of box member
	210 second portion of box member
55	212 back wall
	214 electrical box
	216 side of electrical box
	218 rear wall of electrical box
	220 connection point for high voltage component
	222 first sidewall portion
	224 second sidewall portion
60	226 rear edge of second sidewall portion
	228 short wall
	230 edge of first sidewall portion
	232 stiffening rib
	234 exterior rib
	236 outer surface of box member
65	238 tab
	240 first end of tab

-continued

Part Number	Description
242	second end of tab
244	integral boss
246	bore
248	low voltage opening in back wall
250	connection point for low voltage component
252	boss at low voltage opening
254	groove
256	divider Wall
258	knockout
260	top wall portion
262	bottom wall portion
264	loop member
266	opening in loop member
268	transverse flange
270	peripheral flange
272	top portion of transverse flange
274	bottom portion of transverse flange
276	side portion of transverse flange
278	mounting aperture
280	mounting arrangement
282	hole in wall
284	wall
286	mounting fastener
288	stud
290	second set of mounting apertures
292	duplex receptacle high voltage component
294	low voltage component
296	attachment arrangement
298	boss of attachment arrangement
300	aperture of attachment arrangement
302	fastener of attachment arrangement
304	aperture in wall
306	sheetrock
308	face of stud
310	fastener
312	aperture in peripheral wall
314	electrical box assembly, one-piece embodiment
316	plug end of electrical cord
318	electrical cord
D1	depth of peripheral wall
D2	length of tab
D3	stud center to center spacing
D4	depth of recessed high voltage component
D5	depth of recessed low voltage component

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIG. 1 depicts a first embodiment of an electrical box assembly 20 according to the present invention. The recessed electrical box assembly 20 includes a box member 22 and a frame member 24. The box member 22 includes an electrical box 26 for accommodating high voltage components (not shown) and open areas 28 having connection points 30 for accommodating low voltage components (not shown).

With reference to FIG. 2, a first embodiment of the box member 22 includes a forward extending peripheral wall 32 and a back wall 34. The electrical box 26 includes sidewalls 36 and is integral with the back wall 34 of the box member 22. The connection points 30 are provided on the back wall 34 of the box member 22 typically on opposing sides 38 of the open areas 28. The peripheral wall 32 of the box member 22 includes sidewalls 40 and apertures 42 are provided in the sidewalls 40. The peripheral wall 32 of the box member 22 includes an inner edge 44 at a juncture 46 with the back wall 34 of the box member 22 and an outer edge 48 with the apertures 42 in the peripheral wall 32 adjacent or very close to the inner edge 44. The peripheral wall 32 of the box member 22 includes a bottom wall 50 and loop members 52

in linear alignment along the bottom wall 50. The loop members 52 extend across the juncture 46 of the bottom wall 50 and the back wall 34. The electrical box 26 includes bosses 54 that are integral with the sidewalls 36 of the electrical box 26.

Referring to FIGS. 3-4A, threaded bores 56 are provided in the bosses 54 of the electrical box 26. The electrical box 26 includes a rear wall 58 that closes the rear of the electrical box and provides a high voltage enclosure 60 therein. As shown at the cutaway portion of the peripheral wall 32 in FIG. 4, the peripheral wall 32 of the box member 22 includes a depth D1 as measured from the inner edge 44 to the outer edge 48. The box member 22 includes a plurality of bosses 62 extending inward from the peripheral wall 32. The peripheral wall 32 of the box member 22 further includes a flared portion 63 near the outer edge 48 at both the top and bottom ends of the peripheral wall 32. As shown in FIG. 3, the connection points 30 for the low voltage components may include connection points 30A aligned for vertical connection of the low voltage components and connection points 30B aligned for horizontal connection of the low voltage components.

With reference to FIGS. 5-7, a first embodiment of the frame member 24 includes a rearward extending peripheral flange 64 and a transversely extending flange 66. A plurality of guide members 68 is provided on the peripheral flange 64, with each guide member 68 positioned along the inner edge 69 of the transverse flange 66 of the frame member 24. The transverse flange 66 of the frame member 24 includes apertures 70 therein.

Referring to FIGS. 8 and 9, there is shown an attachment arrangement 72 for securing the frame member 24 to the box member 22 to create the recessed electrical box assembly 20 of the present invention. The attachment arrangement 72 includes fasteners 74 which are secured through each guide member 68 on the peripheral flange 64 of the frame member 24 into a corresponding boss 62 (see FIG. 2) on the peripheral wall 32 of the box member 22. To secure the frame member 24 to the box member 22, the peripheral flange 64 of the frame member 24 is aligned with the peripheral wall 32 of the box member 22. With the frame member 24 thus aligned with the box member 22, each guide member 68 in the frame 24 is aligned with a corresponding boss 62 in the box member 22. As shown in FIG. 8, the connection points 30 for low voltage components (not shown) include apertures 76 on opposing sides 38 of the open areas 28 in the back wall 34 of the box member 22.

As shown in FIG. 10, after the frame member 24 is secured to the box member 22 to form electrical box assembly 20, the electrical box 26 projects from the back wall 34 of the box member 22 and the sidewalls 36 and rear wall 58 of the electrical box 26. The sidewalls 36 and rear wall 58 of the electrical box 26 thereby create a high voltage enclosure 60 that isolates any high voltage wiring or components therein (not shown) from nearby low voltage components.

For operation of the electrical box assembly 20 of the present invention, reference is made to FIG. 11. An installer first cuts a hole 78 in the sheet rock 80 or similar wall covering on a wall 82 thereby exposing a stud 84. The box member 22 is inserted into the hole 78 until the transverse flange 66 is flush with the surrounding wall 82. The electrical box assembly 20 includes a mounting arrangement 86 for securing the box member 22 to the stud 84 and thereby positioning the back wall 34 of the box member substantially within the wall 82. The mounting arrangement 86 for securing the box member 22 to the stud 84 includes mount-

ing fasteners **88** that are secured through the apertures **42** in the peripheral wall **32** and into the stud **84** thereby securing the box member **22** to the stud **84**. After the box member **22** is secured to the stud **84**, the frame member **24** is secured to the box member **22** by tightening the fasteners **74** of the attachment arrangement **72** through the guide members **68** of the frame **24** and into the bosses **62** on the peripheral wall **32** of the box member **22**. As an alternative to fastening the frame **24** to the box member **22** with the attachment arrangement, the frame **24** may be secured directly to the wall **82** by driving fasteners **87** through alternative apertures **89** in the transverse flange **66** into the wall **82**. A high voltage component such as the duplex power receptacle **90** can be secured to the electrical box **26** by fasteners **92** and a cover plate **94** attached thereto. Low voltage components such as the CATV connector plate **96** can then be secured with fasteners **98** to the connection points **30** surrounding the open areas **28**.

Referring to FIG. **12**, after the electrical box assembly **20** is secured to the wall **82** and electrical components installed therein, all electrical components, such as the duplex receptacle **90** shown, are recessed within the wall **82** by at least the depth **D1** of the peripheral wall **32** of the box member **22**. Preferably the electrical components are recessed from the outer edge **99** of the electrical box assembly **20** by between 1 and 2 inches. Most preferably, the electrical components are recessed from the outer edge **99** of the electrical box assembly **20** by at least 1.5 inches. With the electrical box assembly **20** recessed within the wall **82** as shown, the plug ends **100** of cords **102** or connector ends of low voltage cables (not shown) are protected from being dislodged by contact from vacuum cleaners or similar hazards.

With reference to FIG. **13** there is shown a completed installation of an electrical box assembly **20** of the present invention in a wall **82**. The electrical box assembly **20** includes a duplex receptacle **90** and cover plate **94**, a horizontally oriented CATV connector **104**, a vertically oriented CATV connector **106**, and a horizontally oriented telephone jack **108**.

As shown in FIG. **4** or **9**, the electrical box **26** of the present invention may include a depressed area **110** in one of the sidewalls **36** and a knockout or removable wall portion **112** therein in the depressed area **110**. The depressed area **110** in the sidewall **36** enables the use of electrical fittings or connectors such as the Black Button™ push-in connector **114** for connecting non-metallic cable to electrical boxes, which is available from Arlington Industries of Scranton, Pa. The depressed area **110** permits use of the connectors **114** without projecting from the sidewall **36** and interfering with placement of the electrical box assembly **20** in locations where space is tightly restricted.

With reference to FIG. **14** there is shown a second and preferred embodiment of an electrical box assembly **200** according to the present invention. Although the electrical box assembly **200** is depicted with a box member **202** and a frame member **204**, the electrical box assembly could also be constructed and provided in one piece, with the frame member **204** integral with the box member **202**.

Referring to FIG. **15**, the box member **202** includes a rearward extending peripheral sidewall **206** having a front edge **208**. The box member **202** includes a first portion **209** and a second portion **210** with a back wall **212** closing off the box member **202** at the first portion **209**. An electrical box **214** extends rearward from the second portion **210** of the box member **202**. The electrical box **214** includes sides **216** and a rear wall **218**. Connection points **220** are provided in the electrical box **214** for later connecting an electrical

component (not shown) thereto. The first portion **209** of the box member **202** includes a first sidewall portion **222** and the second portion **210** of the box member **202** includes a second sidewall portion **224** with the second sidewall portion **224** extending to a greater depth from the front edge **208** than the first sidewall portion **222**. The second sidewall portion **224** includes a rear edge **226** and a short wall **228** extending transversely at the rear edge **226**. The first sidewall portion **224** terminates in an edge **230**. The sides **216** of the electrical box **214** extend rearward from the edge **226** of the short wall **228**.

As shown in FIG. **15**, the interior of the box member **202** includes a plurality of stiffening ribs **232** extending from the back wall **212** and along a substantial portion of the peripheral sidewall **206** toward the front edge **208**. Additionally, as shown in FIG. **16**, exterior ribs **234** project from the exterior surface of the short wall **228** and along the exterior surface of the sides **216** of the electrical box **214**.

With reference to FIG. **16**, the peripheral sidewall **206** of the box member **202** includes an outer surface **236** and tabs **238** extending from the outer surface **236**. The tabs **238** include a first end **240** flush with the front edge **208** of the box member **202** and a second end **242** at a distance **D2** (see FIG. **20**) from the front edge **208**. Preferably, the distance **D2** is between 0.25 and 0.75 inches for later aligning the front edge **208** of the box member **202** at a proper offset from a stud for accommodating sheetrock thereon (see FIG. **27**).

Referring to FIG. **17**, the connection points **220** in the electrical box **214** include integral bosses **244** extending from opposing sides **216** of the electrical box **214** and bores **246** in the bosses **244**. As shown in FIG. **17**, the electrical box **214** is a two-gang box that includes space for two electrical components (not shown) and includes two sets of integral bosses **244**. The box member **202** includes a plurality of openings **248** in the back wall **212** for later accommodating low voltage electrical components (not shown). The openings **248** include connection points **250** in the back wall **212** for securing low voltage components thereto. The connection points **250** for the low voltage components include bosses **252** on opposing sides of the openings **248** in the back wall **212** of the box member **202**.

As shown in FIG. **17**, the preferred embodiment of the electrical box assembly includes a two-gang electrical box **214**. Opposing sides **216** of the electrical box **214** include grooves **254** therein for dividing the two-gang box into single electrical boxes. A divider wall **256**, such as that shown in FIG. **19**, can be inserted or slid into the grooves **254** to dividing the electrical box into two single electrical boxes.

As shown in FIG. **18**, one or more sides **216** of the electrical box **214** are provided with removable wall portions or knockouts **258**. The knockouts **258** are removed to provide openings for passage of electrical cable (not shown) into the electrical box **214**. Additionally, the knockouts **258** can have electrical fittings or connectors inserted therein for connecting electrical cables to the electrical box.

With reference to FIG. **20**, the peripheral sidewall **206** of the box member **202** further includes a top wall portion **260** and a bottom wall portion **262**. A loop member **264** is provided on the bottom wall portion **262** and on the top wall portion **260**. The loop members **264** extend from the back wall **212** to the top or bottom wall portions **260**, **262** and include an opening **266** therein. The loop member **264** can be used for bundling and holding cables and wiring (not shown) against the back wall **212** of the box member **202**.

Referring to FIGS. **21-24**, the frame member **204** portion of the electrical box assembly is shown. The frame member

204 includes a transverse flange 268 and a rearward extending peripheral flange 270. The transverse flange 268 includes a top portion 272, a bottom portion 274, and side portions 276. As shown in FIG. 22, mounting apertures 278 are provided in the side portions 276 of the transverse flange 268 and form a portion of a mounting arrangement 280 for mounting the electrical box assembly to a wall.

With reference to FIG. 25, there is shown the preferred embodiment of the electrical box assembly 200 in alignment with a hole 282 in a wall 284 to be inserted therein and mounted to the wall 284. The mounting arrangement 280 includes the mounting apertures 278 in the transverse flange 268 and mounting fasteners 286 for tightening through the mounting apertures 278 into a stud 288. The mounting apertures 278 in side portions 276 of the transverse flange 268 are preferably spaced apart by a distance equivalent to the spacing D3 between the studs 288. If, for example, the distance D3 between the studs 288 was 16 inches, then mounting apertures 278 are preferably spaced apart by a distance of between 15.5 and 16.5 inches, or most preferably by 16 inches. The hole 282 made in the wall 284 would therefore be made to extend between two adjacent studs. For wood studs 288, wood screws would preferably be used to secure the electrical box assembly 200 to the wall 284. For metal studs (not shown), sheet metal screws or their equivalents would be used to secure the electrical box assembly 200 to the wall 284. A second set of apertures 290 are provided on one side of the transverse flange 268 inward of the mounting apertures 278 for walls with studs spaced apart at a distance of 14.5 inches. For longer stud spacing, one end of the transverse flange 268 would be anchored into a stud in the normal manner and the opposite end would be anchored to the drywall with drywall screws. Also, the electrical box assembly 200 could be constructed in a larger length to accommodate a longer stud spacing.

As shown in FIG. 25, the electrical box 214 extends at a first depth D4 from the front edge 208 of the box member 202. The low voltage openings 248 extend at a second depth D5 from the front edge 208 of the box member 202. As a result of the electrical box 214 being offset at a greater distance from the front edge 208, any high voltage component, such as the duplex receptacle 292 will be recessed a greater depth D4 within the wall 284 than would a low voltage component 294 such as the CATV outlet plate shown in FIG. 25.

In the preferred embodiment of the electrical box assembly 200 of the present invention, the box member 202 could be provided in one piece, as shown in FIG. 14, with the transverse flange 268 as an integral part of the box member 202. Conversely, as shown in FIG. 25, the electrical box assembly 200 could be provided with a separate box member 202 and frame member 204. An attachment arrangement 296 for securing the frame member 204 to the box member 202 includes a plurality of bosses 298 on the peripheral sidewall 206 of the box member 202 and a plurality of apertures 300 in the frame member 204. The apertures 300 in the frame member 204 are in axial alignment with the bosses 298 on the box member 202 when the frame member 204 is aligned with the box member 202. Fasteners 302 are used in the attachment arrangement 296 for securing through the apertures 300 in the frame member 204 into the bosses 298 on the box member 202.

The reader is referred to FIG. 25 for an understanding of the operation of the preferred embodiment of the electrical box assembly 200 including a separate box member 202 and frame member 204. An appropriately sized hole 282 to accommodate the outer periphery of the box member 202

and spanning the distance between two studs 288 is cut in the wall 284. FIG. 25 illustrates a wall having studs spaced a distance D3 apart on their centers. The frame member 204 is then secured to the box member 202 using fasteners 302 through apertures 300 of frame member 204 into bosses 298 in box member 202. Cables are then fed through the appropriate openings including knockouts 258 for high voltage cables or through openings 248 for low voltage cables. The cables (not shown) can be routed through loop members 264 to hold them within the box member 202. The electrical box assembly 200, consisting of the frame member 204 secured to the box member 202, is then secured to the wall using the mounting arrangement 280 including mounting fasteners 286 secured through mounting apertures 278 in the transverse flange 268 and into apertures 304 and the studs 288 in the wall 284. High voltage components, such as the duplex receptacle 292 shown, are then secured to the high voltage connection points 220 within the electrical box assembly 200 and low voltage components, such as the CATV outlets 294, are secured to the low voltage connection points 250 within the electrical box assembly 200.

With continued reference to FIG. 25, in the case of installing the electrical box assembly 200 on a newly constructed wall in which the sheetrock 306 has not yet been installed, tabs 238 are used to align the box member 202 against the bare studs. In this situation, the second or rear ends 242 of the tabs 238 are placed against the face 308 of the studs 288, which would position the box member 202 at the correct distance to place the front edge 208 of the box member 202 approximately flush with the eventual face of the installed sheetrock 306. Fasteners 310 are secured through apertures 312 in the peripheral sidewall 206 of the box member 202 to temporarily secure the box member 202 to the wall until the sheetrock 306 is installed and the frame member 204 is secured to the box member 202 and to the wall 284 by mounting arrangement 280.

The reader is referred to FIG. 26 for an understanding of the operation of the one-piece preferred embodiment of the electrical box assembly 314 in which the transverse flange 268 is an integral portion of the box member 202. An appropriately sized hole 282 to accommodate the outer periphery of the peripheral sidewall 206 of the box member 202 and spanning the distance between two studs 288 is cut in the wall 284. Cables (not shown) are then fed through the appropriate openings including knockouts 258 for high voltage cables or through openings 248 for low voltage cables. The electrical box assembly 314, consisting of the one-piece box member 202, is then secured to the wall using the mounting arrangement 280 including mounting fasteners 286 secured through mounting apertures 278 in the transverse flange 268 and into apertures 304 and the studs 288 in the wall 284. High voltage components, such as the duplex receptacle 292 shown, are then secured to the high voltage connection points 220 within the electrical box assembly 314 and low voltage components, such as the CATV outlets 294, are secured to the low voltage connection points 250 within the electrical box assembly 314.

As shown in FIG. 27, after the electrical box assembly 200 has been secured to the wall 284, both high voltage components 292 and low voltage components 294 are recessed substantially within the wall 284, thus protecting the components. High voltage components such as the duplex receptacle 292 shown are offset a distance D4 and low voltage components 294 are offset a distance D5. The greater offset of the duplex receptacle 292 provides ample

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space for protecting plug ends **316** of electrical cords **318** while they are in use and plugged into the duplex receptacle **292**.

As shown and described herein, the current invention provides an improved electrical box assembly **200** or **314** that has the advantage of accommodating two high voltage components and recesses the high voltage components farther within the wall. It also provides the advantage of an extended flange for more secure mounting of the electrical box assembly to a wall.

The electrical box assembly of the present invention could be constructed of metal or plastic but, most preferably, is molded of plastic. In a first method of construction, the box member **202** of the present invention is molded in one piece of plastic and the frame member **204** is also molded in one piece of plastic. In a second method of construction, a single piece is molded in one piece of plastic with the single piece being a box member including a transverse flange as an integral molded portion of the box member thereby negating the need for a separated frame member. Suitable plastics include polycarbonate and polyvinylchloride.

Having thus described the invention with reference to a preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not so limited by the description herein but is defined as follows by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical box assembly comprising:
 - a box member including a rearward extending peripheral sidewall having a front edge;
 - a flange extending outward transversely from said front edge;
 - a back wall closing a first portion of said box member; and
 - an electrical box extending rearward from a second portion of said box member, said electrical box including sides and a rear wall;
 - connection points in said electrical box for connecting an electrical component thereto;
 - a mounting arrangement for securing said electrical box assembly to a wall;
 - a top wall portion and a bottom wall portion on said peripheral sidewall of said box member;
 - a loop member extending from said bottom wall portion and from said top wall portion; and
 - said loop member including an opening therein.
2. The electrical box assembly of claim 1 wherein said mounting arrangement includes
 - apertures in said flange; and
 - fasteners for tightening through said apertures into a stud.
3. The electrical box assembly of claim 2 wherein said flange includes a top portion, a bottom portion, and side portions; and said apertures of said mounting arrangement are in said side portions of said flange.
4. The electrical box assembly of claim 2 wherein said apertures in said flange are spaced apart by a distance substantially equal to the spacing between said stud and an adjacent stud in a building.
5. The electrical box assembly of claim 4 wherein said apertures in said flange are spaced apart by a distance of between 15.5 and 16.5 inches.
6. The electrical box assembly of claim 1 wherein said first portion of said box member includes a first sidewall portion; said second portion of said box member includes a second sidewall portion; and said second sidewall portion extends to a greater depth than said first sidewall portion.

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7. The electrical box assembly of claim 6 including a rear edge on said second sidewall portion; a short wall extending transversely at said rear edge of said second sidewall portion and terminating in an edge; and

said sides of said electrical box extend from said edge of said short wall.

8. The electrical box assembly of claim 1 wherein said connection points in said electrical box include integral bosses extending from opposing sides of said electrical box; and bores in said bosses.

9. The electrical box assembly of claim 8 wherein said electrical box includes space for two electrical components and two sets of said integral bosses.

10. The electrical box assembly of claim 1 wherein said box member includes a plurality of stiffening ribs extending from said back wall and along a substantial portion of said peripheral sidewall toward said front edge.

11. The electrical box assembly of claim 1 including a plurality of low voltage openings in said back wall of said box member; connection points in said back wall for securing low voltage components thereto; and said connection points for the low voltage components include bosses on opposing sides of said openings in said back wall of said box member.

12. The electrical box assembly of claim 11 wherein said electrical box extends at a first depth from said front edge of said box member; said low voltage openings extend at a second depth from said front edge of said box member; and said first depth is greater than said second depth whereby a high voltage component is recessed within a wall to a greater depth than a low voltage component.

13. The electrical box assembly of claim 1 wherein said sides of said electrical box include grooves therein in opposing sides of said box; and said electrical box assembly including a divider wall for insertion in said grooves for dividing said electrical box into two separate electrical boxes.

14. An electrical box assembly comprising: a box member including peripheral wall having a rear edge; a frame member including a rearward extending peripheral flange and a transverse flange; a first portion of said box member closed by a back wall extending across said rear edge; a second portion of said electrical box including an electrical box extending from said rear edge of said box member;

connection points on said back wall of said box member for securing low voltage components thereto; an attachment arrangement for securing said frame member to said box member;

a mounting arrangement for securing said electrical box assembly to a wall and thereby positioning said back wall of said box member substantially within the wall; a top wall portion and a bottom wall portion on said peripheral sidewall of said box member;

a loop member extending from said bottom wall portion and from said top wall portion; and said loop member including an opening therein.

15. The electrical box assembly of claim 14 wherein said attachment arrangement for securing said frame member to said box member includes

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a plurality of bosses on said peripheral sidewall of said box member; and
 a plurality of apertures in said frame member in axial alignment with said bosses on said box member; and
 a plurality of fasteners for securing through said apertures in said frame member into said bosses on said box member.

16. The electrical box assembly of claim **14** wherein said mounting arrangement includes apertures in said flange; and fasteners for tightening through said apertures into a stud.

17. The electrical box assembly of claim **14** wherein said peripheral wall of said box member includes a depth; and a high voltage component secured within said electrical box and a low voltage component secured to said connection points positions the high and low voltage components within a wall by at least said depth of said peripheral wall of said box member.

18. The electrical box assembly of claim **1** wherein said peripheral sidewall of said box member include an outer surface; tabs extending from said outer surface of said peripheral sidewall, said tabs include a first end flush with said front edge of said box member and a second end at a distance from said front edge; and

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said distance is between 0.25 and 0.75 inches to align said front edge of said box member at a proper offset from a stud for accommodating sheetrock thereon.

19. An electrical box assembly comprising:
 a one-piece box member including a rearward extending peripheral sidewall having a front edge;
 a flange integral with said one-piece box member, said flange extending outward transversely from said front edge;
 a back wall closing a first portion of said box member; and
 an electrical box extending rearward from a second portion of said box member, said electrical box including sides and a rear wall;
 connection points in said electrical box for connecting an electrical component thereto;
 a mounting arrangement for securing said electrical box assembly to a wall;
 a top wall portion and a bottom wall portion on said peripheral sidewall of said box member;
 a loop member extending from said bottom wall portion and from said top wall portion; and
 said loop member including an opening therein.

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